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Thu, Jan 18, 2018 at 2:03 PM

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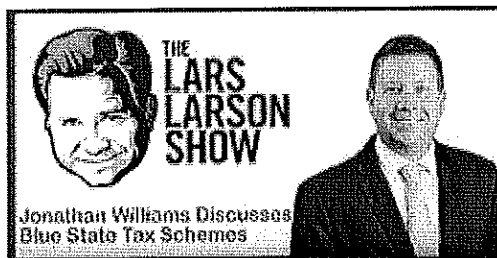


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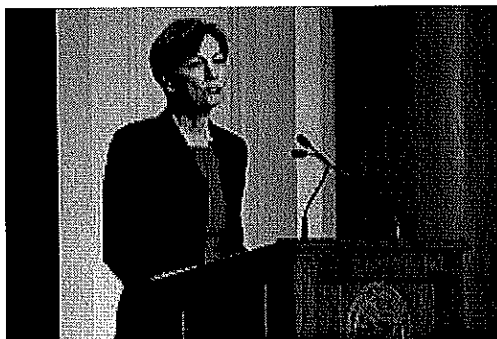
ALEC on the Radio**Jonathan Williams on the Lars Larson Show: High-Tax States' Sneaky Agendas**

ALEC Chief Economist Jonathan Williams joined the Lars Larson Show last Friday to discuss the "sneaky" agendas that high-tax states may pursue to circumvent tax reform.

[Listen Here](#)

Iowa State of the States Response**Kim Reynolds Promises Bold Tax Reform for Iowa**

Christine Smith | Center for State Fiscal Reform

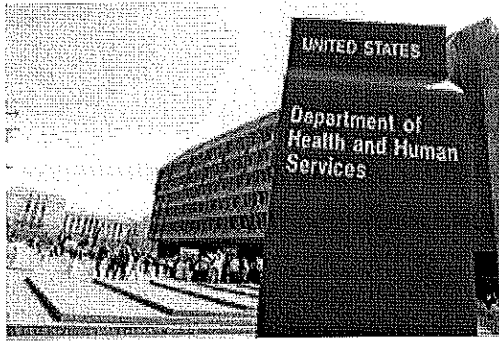


Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds delivered her first Condition of the State address last week in Des Moines. Governor Reynolds expects substantive reforms over a multi-year period and plans to create a bipartisan task force to analyze the state's many inefficient tax credits.

[Read Article](#)

Expert Insight**Allowing Medicaid Work Requirements Will Help Many State Budgets**

Brooklyn Roberts | Health and Human Services



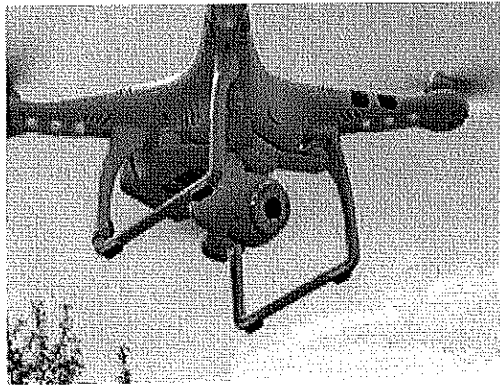
The Trump administration's efforts to give power back to the states may make a big difference to many state budgets. On Thursday, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a guidance letter on Medicaid work requirements. This guidance letter is an effort to provide states with common sense parameters while giving them wide latitude to innovate.

[Read Article](#)

Communications and Technology

Legislative Proposals Affecting Drones for 2018

Jonathon Hauenschield | Communications and Technology/Homeland Security



The 2018 legislative session is kicking into gear across the country. A number of states have introduced proposed legislation impacting Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAVs/UASs), also known as drones. Some of the proposals are simple, while other states have introduced comprehensive regulatory schemes.

[Read Article](#)

Criminal Justice Update

Trump Administration Holds Listening Session on Prisoner Reentry

Ronald Lampard | Criminal Justice Reform



On January 11, Trump administration officials heard from various conservative organizations about why they support reentry policy. Reentry programs in the states have reduced crime rates, which in turn have resulted in budgetary savings due to fewer offenders being incarcerated.

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ALEC/FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Leading the Fight for Tax Cuts in Maryland

Sen. Gail Bates | Maryland 9th District

This week's ALEC/FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week is **Senator Gail Bates** of Maryland. Gail's careers as a teacher and tax



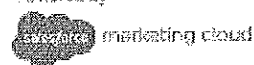
supervisor motivate her to focus on education and tax issues as a legislator. Senator Bates is a supporter of tax reform and hopes it will "encourage Maryland to begin to look at cutting taxes and spending."

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Center to Restore the Balance of Government Updates - 01/23/18

1 message

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January 23, 2018



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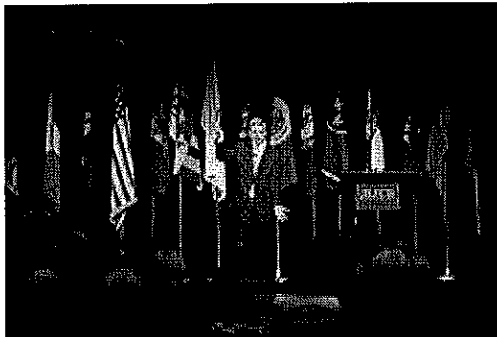


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Convention of States Update

Nashville Hosted a Convention of the States in June 1850 and ALEC in December 2017

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force

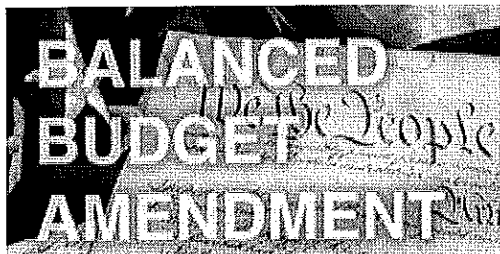


Federalism took center stage at the most recent States and Nation Policy Summit in Nashville, Tennessee, December 6-8, 2017. Here are some of the highlights:

- Former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli addressed the importance of a balanced budget amendment to America's fiscal sustainability at a conference-wide breakfast session. A workshop giving lawmakers the tools to implement Cuccinelli's ideas using Article V of the U.S. Constitution followed the breakfast.
- The Federalism Task Force was treated to a presentation from the Chair of last September's Phoenix Planning Convention to consider potential rules for an Article V amendments convention.
- The Task Force heard a presentation on the challenges that overregulation poses to the states, and model policy supporting the REINS Act was considered and adopted.
- The Federalism Task Force also considered and adopted model policy calling for a repeal of the 17th Amendment. The Federalism Task Force will meet again in August 2018 in New Orleans

What to Read

The Balanced Budget Campaign Update Is Important Reading



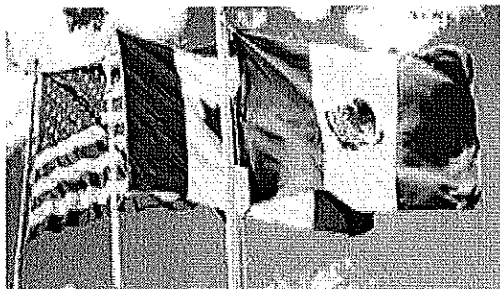
This bi-weekly newsletter is a great way to stay on top of progress being made to secure the applications needed for the states to propose a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

[Read Article](#)
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NAFTA Insight

NAFTA Has Been a Winner for the States

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force



Despite its imperfections, the states have been notable NAFTA beneficiaries and have the most to lose if the Agreement falters. A recently published report stated that Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Ohio and Indiana would be among the top 10 losers if NAFTA is dissolved. Millions of American jobs are supported by NAFTA, and all but one U.S. state count Canada or Mexico as a top three trading partner. While ready for modernization, NAFTA has been good for the nation and good for the states.

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International Democracy

Democracy's Tenuous Hold in Turkey

Caroline Caywood | Federalism and International Relations Task Force



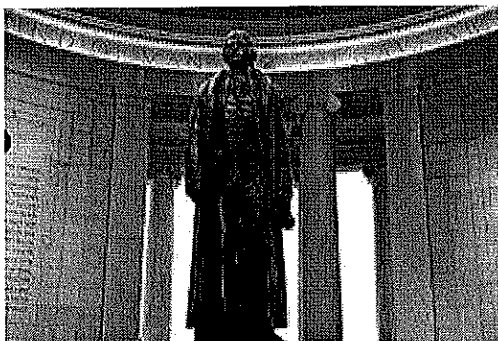
Turkey has become a disappointing example of a nation that once held so much democratic promise but where the institutions underpinning rule of law seem to be faltering in dramatic fashion. Late last year, Turkey's Chief Prosecutor issued a warrant for former CIA officer, Graham Fuller, alleging links between Fuller and Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, marking the latest chapter of the disintegration of liberal democracy in a nation that just a few years ago appeared to be a democratic success story. The latest series of threats to Turkish democracy have come about under the presidency of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has consolidated power into what is becoming an increasingly authoritarian regime.

[Read Article](#)

Focus on Federalism

Federalism – Getting Back to Basics

Justin Stapley | The Federalist Coalition



"We must learn and engage the art of coalition if we are to avoid becoming yet another principled movement whose talk was tough but left empty its list of achievements."

Many and various have been the arguments, in this new political era we find ourselves in, that we are experiencing the age of unprincipled movements, fueled by resentment and identity as opposed to values and ideals. However, hidden from the general coverage of media surrogates (both right and left), is an ever-growing list of principled and grassroots movements trying to make their voices heard amidst the partisan squalor.

[Read Article](#)

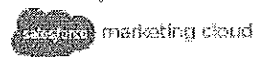
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7/23/2018

Gmail - Ohio Report, Tuesday, January 23, 2018



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latourism@gmail.com>

Ohio Report, Tuesday, January 23, 2018
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OHIO REPORT TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

- [Lawmakers Urged To Find Bipartisan Agreement On Redistricting Revamp; Sponsor Says Changes Afoot](#)
- [Battle Lines Hold Firm On Right-To-Work, Prevailing Wage Proposals](#)
- [Health Plans Raise Privacy Concerns With Claims Information Bill](#)
- [Senate Democrats Scrutinize SNAP Fraud Bill](#)
- [Telecom Update Would Drive Investment, Industry Group Says](#)
- [Groups Call For More Specificity On Bail Assessment Tools](#)

ECOT Appeals Closure, Says Founder Will Waive Fees To Prevent Budget Shortfall

High Court Sides With Arrestee In Dispute Over Purse Search

Ohio Business: P&G Reports Sales Increase; Banks Report Year-End Financial Results...

Gongwer Unveils Text Alerts for Bill Tracking, Breaking News, Other Messages

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Event Planner

Senate Committee Hearings

Health, Human Services & Medicaid

Insurance & Financial Institutions

Government Oversight & Reform

House Committee Hearings

Finance

Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development

Energy & Natural Resources

Ways & Means

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Gmail - Ohio Report, Tuesday, January 23, 2018

4 attachments

 Jan23House.htm 122K

 180123dayplan.htm 46K

 Jan23Senate.htm 20K

 Jan23.htm 74K



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The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

House Activity for Tuesday, January 23, 2018

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

HBWIRELESS SERVICES (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. Am. 4939.01, 4939.02, 4939.03, 4939.031, 4939.035, 4939.038, 4939.0311, 4939.0313, 4939.0315, 4939.0319, 4939.0321, 4939.0325, 4939.04, and 4939.08; to amend, for the purpose of adopting new section numbers as indicated in parentheses, sections 4939.035 (4939.036), 4939.038 (4939.037), 4939.039 (4939.038), 4939.0313 (4939.0312), 4939.0315 (4939.0313), 4939.0317 (4939.0315), 4939.0319 (4939.0316), 4939.0325 (4939.0322), and 4939.0327 (4939.0323) and to enact new sections 4939.039 and 4939.0317 and sections 4939.0314, 4939.0329, and 4939.09, and to repeal sections 4939.032, 4939.033, and 4939.037

Government Accountability & Oversight

Gongwer Coverage

INTRODUCED

HBLOCAL FUNDING (Young, R.) To credit additional amounts to the Local Government Fund to provide for payment to fire districts that experienced a 30% or more decrease in the taxable value of power plants located in the districts between 2016 and 2017 and to increase the appropriation to the Local Government Fund. Am. 5747.50 of the Revised Code and to amend Section 387.10 of Am. Sub. H.B. 49 of the 132nd General Assembly

HBLICENSE PLATE (Antani, N.) To create the "Trees 4 Ohio" license plate. Am. 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.941

HBSKATEBOARDING (West, T.) To prohibit a person riding a skateboard or the operator of a vehicle from attaching the skateboard or the rider to the vehicle and to name this act the "Dallas Swogger Act." Am. 4511.54

HBORGAN DONATIONS (Koehler, K.) To require the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and each Deputy Registrar to ask each person renewing a motor vehicle registration if that person wants to make a voluntary contribution to the Second Chance Trust Fund. Am. 2108.34, to enact section 4501.027, and to repeal sections 4506.081, 4507.231, and 4507.501

HBSCHOOL OPERATIONS (Koehler, K.) To eliminate various provisions and programs related to the Department of Education and the operation of primary and secondary schools. Am. 109.57, 2917.46, 3301.133, 3302.26, 3313.71, and 3313.753 and to repeal sections 3301.073, 3301.0722, 3301.111, 3301.21, 3301.25, 3301.86, 3301.88, 3301.95, 3301.96, 3302.037, 3302.30, 3311.061, 3313.206, and 3313.711

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

HB MEDICAL RECORDS (Schuring, K.) To modify the laws governing access to a patient's medical records.

172

Wednesday, January 24

HB ELECTRIC BICYCLES (Brinkman, T.) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles.

250

■ Wednesday, January 24

HB ANATOMICAL GIFTS (Antani, N.) Regarding anatomical gifts, transplantation, and discrimination on **332** the basis of disability.

■

Wednesday, January 24

SCRMISILE DEFENSE (O'Brien, S., Eklund, J.) A resolution to urge the United States Missile Defense

8 ■ Agency to select Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ravenna, Ohio, as the preferred site for a future east coast Missile Defense system.

Wednesday, January 24

RE-REFERRED

HB 58 ■ **CURSIVE HANDWRITING** (Brenner, A., Slaby, M.) To require instruction in cursive handwriting.

Higher Education & Workforce Development

REFERRED

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security:

SB FIREARMS (Terhar, L.) To waive the concealed carry license fee for active members of the armed forces

81 ■ and retired and honorably discharged veterans, to accept military experience with firearms as proof of competency with firearms regardless of when the applicant for a license acquired the experience, to permit a licensee to renew a concealed handgun license at any time before the expiration of the license, and to require the Attorney General to monitor the number of license fees waived and cap the total amount allowed to be waived at \$1.5 million.

HBMILITARY LEAVE (Perales, R., Boyd, J.) To grant full-time state employees paid leave for the purpose of **468** attending medical examinations and appointments provided through the United States Department of

■ Veterans Affairs.

Energy & Natural Resources:

HB WASTE FEES (LaTourette, S.) To increase one of the state fees levied on the transfer or disposal of solid **463** waste in Ohio, the proceeds of which are deposited into the Soil and Water Conservation District Assistance

■ Fund, and to make an appropriation.

Government Accountability & Oversight:

HB ELECTIONS CYBERSECURITY (Clyde, K.) To establish a Director of Elections Cybersecurity and an **466** Elections Cybersecurity Council to advise the Secretary of State on securing Ohio's elections and preventing ■ future threats.

HB ELECTION PROCEDURES (Clyde, K.) To require the boards of elections to conduct audits of election 467 results and, beginning in 2019, to use only voting equipment that produces voter marked and voter verified paper ballots.

HB TAX CREDIT (Schuring, K., Patton, T.) To authorize a nonrefundable insurance company tax credit for 469 contributions of capital to transformational mixed use development projects.

HB OFCC AUTHORITY (Gonzales, A.) To specify that the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission's powers 471 do not extend to letting or administering contracts that fall under the power of the Department of Administrative Services to make changes to existing facilities.

Health:

SB ABORTION (Uecker, J.) Regarding final disposition of fetal remains from surgical abortions. 28

HB STROKE PATIENTS (Lipps, S., Antonio, N.) To provide for recognition of stroke centers and 464 establishment of protocols for assessment, treatment, and transport to hospitals of stroke patients.

HB MEDICAID DRUG BENEFITS (Lipps, S., Koehler, K.) To provide for the prescribed drugs benefit to be 465 delivered under the Medicaid program through the fee-for-service system.

State & Local Government:

HB 470 LIGHTING FUNDS (Edwards, J.) To authorize a property tax levy specifically to fund lighting for roads and public places.

Transportation & Public Safety:

HB ROAD NAMING (Cera, J.) To designate a portion of State Route 164 in the Village of Bergholz as the 472 "Pvt. David Rhoades Memorial Highway."

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Energy and Natural Resources Committee: Remove Rep. Vitale, effective January 22, 2018.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Finance

HBBROADBAND EXPANSION (Carfagna, R.) To establish the residential broadband expansion program 281 within the Development Services Agency to award matching grants for last mile broadband expansion in municipal corporations and townships and to make an appropriation. (REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

The bill was reported following the acceptance of a substitute version that included a handful of substantive changes along with other updates that sponsor Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) described as dealing mostly with "semantics" and cleanup language to avoid redundancies. He said the Legislative Service Commission

Comparison Document on the sub bill covers those changes as well as a series of amendments accepted at the committee's last hearing.

As explained by the sponsor, the more significant changes incorporated Tuesday include:

- Allowing local governments that decide to fill funding gaps on their own to avoid seeking county approval.
- The creation of a "challenge process" for requests-for-proposals with a five-day period for providers to question guidelines.
- Language dealing with the treatment of proposals that allow for the redaction of "trade secrets."
- Providing for alternative payment terms rather than mandating that providers do not get fully paid until the projects are completed.
- Removal of regulations of rates and pricing.
- Clarifying that providers are responsible for upkeep upon completion of the infrastructure.
- Clarifying that the assessments provided for in the legislation only apply to specific broadband projects.

Mr. Carfagna told the panel that 55 interested parties have been kept informed throughout the process of the more recent changes and there were no objections raised regarding the sub bill. "We're doing our best to keep people abreast of what we're trying to accomplish here," he said.

In answering questions from the panel, the sponsor said: the bill contains adequate protections regarding assessments and the process of determining unserved areas; and the substitute's elimination of language specifying monthly usage and "roundtrip latency" standards was aimed at avoiding any "micromanaging" of service providers.

The sponsor said in an interview that the bill provides for the Development Services Agency to use \$2 million every biennium from unencumbered funds, language that required the bill's approval by the Finance Committee.

Among members present for the vote, only Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) and Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) were opposed to the report.

The latter lawmaker in an interview cited a 10-megabyte download-standard, saying he didn't want to be paying for "old technology" and noting that satellite providers already exceed such speeds.

Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development

HB 182 DEBT ADJUSTING (Seitz, B.) Regarding debt adjusting. (**REPORTED**; 5th Hearing-All testimony-
Possible vote)

Before the bill was reported, Betty Montgomery, an attorney representing the American Fair Credit Council, told the panel that it will not allow for the unauthorized practice of law.

"Case law - both within this state and at the United States Supreme Court - has given us some direction when trying to determine whether or not certain behaviors constitute the practice of law," the former attorney general said.

Ms. Montgomery said the legislation will allow debt settlement companies to operate in Ohio the same way non-profit credit counseling agencies have for decades - with no objection from the bar, she added.

"This bill provides an opportunity for both clarity and fairness: Should this bill pass and the industry begins engaging with business in Ohio, it undoubtedly will be challenged once again," she said. "The industry will then have an opportunity to have full hearings, presenting persuasive evidence and argument to the Ohio Supreme

Court, the proper forum for clarification regarding whether or not the debt settlement industry is engaged in the unauthorized practice of law."

The bill was reported in an 8-5 vote, with Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) joining Democrats on the panel in opposition.

HB CREDIT FREEZES (Henne, M., Kelly, B.) To modify the fees that a credit reporting agency can charge **386** in relation to a credit report freeze. (**CONTINUED (No testimony)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony)

HB FORCIBLE ENTRY (Merrin, D.) To clarify how to calculate certain timelines under which a forcible **390** entry and detainer action must occur. (**CONTINUED**; 4th Hearing-All testimony)

Dan Acton, government affairs director of the Ohio Real Estate Investors Association, said the measure is intended to standardize eviction laws throughout the state based on previous court rulings.

The legislation, he added, is needed because the calculation of days varies by county.

"Our investor members sometimes own property in multiple counties and the idea of attempting to interpret local laws for a legal action that should be consistent across the state is a recipe for failure and can lead to more complications for all parties involved," he said.

Under the measure, for the purposes of eviction, calendar days would be counted instead of business days.

"In any other contract related to a property whether it is for utility services, taxes paid, mortgages, or insurance, the service provider, or the government counts calendar days. The calculation of days for eviction should not be any different," he said.

HB STUDENT LOANS (Boggs, K., Kelly, B.) To require student loan servicers to be licensed by the Division **432** of Financial Institutions and to create the position of student loan ombudsperson in the Division of Financial Institutions to provide assistance to student loan borrowers. H. B. No. 433 - Representatives Kelly, Brinkman. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus) said in sponsor testimony that student loan borrowers rarely have the opportunity to vet the company servicing their student loans.

"They are thrust into this relationship with a company that they did not necessarily agree to do business with, so the purpose of this bill is to prevent unscrupulous student loan servicing companies from taking advantage of student borrowers by misapplying payments or misrepresenting their practices," she said.

In addition to creating a student loan ombudsperson within the Department of Commerce, the bill would enhance oversight of student loan servicers operating in the state.

Fellow sponsoring Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) said 11 other states have taken similar steps.

"We believe this bill will ensure student loan borrowers and their families receive levels of services and protection that are standard for other financial contracts, but not currently guaranteed under federal law for student loan servicers," she said.

"Notably, this legislation does not require banks or credit unions to obtain a license because similar federal regulations for these companies already exists. Our goal is to make the playing field even across the board, and make sure that Ohioans get the same level of services and protections regardless of who is servicing their student loans."

Asked by chairman Rep. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) about DOC's position on the bill, Rep. Boggs said those discussion have yet to take place.

Subscriber's Note: For full written testimony, see the [committee's website](#) under Jan. 23.

Energy & Natural Resources

HBBRINE SALES (DeVitis, T., O'Brien, M.) To authorize a person to sell brine derived from an oil and gas operation that is processed as a commodity for use in surface application in deicing, dust suppression, and other applications. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED**; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Rep. Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) won support for an amendment that requires the collection of samples, rather than making the collection optional. The change, he said, is expected to move the Ohio Environmental Council from an opponent to an interested party.

Melanie Houston of the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund followed that action with interested party testimony. She said the amendment represents a big step, but the group is still concerned about metals and radioactive materials.

She said the group supports the goal of recycling oil and gas brine outside of injection, but raised concerns that it doesn't include a process that ensures protection of public health, safety and the environment.

To earn the group's support, she said lawmakers would either need to require satisfactory test results regarding radiological materials and heavy metals or establish a regular testing protocol by a lab equipped for those tests.

"We understand that this is a tall order," she said. "We understand that the company is a small business owner in northeast Ohio with a product that works well to treat ice and snow on our roads, and we appreciate the need for safe car travel throughout the state. We understand that there are competing public health priorities and that deicing roads is essential to keep our communities safe and functioning throughout the winter months."

"The OEC Action Fund understands that you also may prioritize the public safety goal of adding another deicing product to the market over the public safety goal of minimizing radiological and heavy metal content that is brought to the surface through resource extraction."

She also called on lawmakers to have the manufacturer demonstrate that the product is safe and is not radioactive.

"While we have heard about the efficacy of the product to treat ice and snow, we have not yet seen the lab analyses to demonstrate that there are not NORM or heavy metals present in the product," Ms. Houston added.

Rep. Dick Stein (R-Norwalk) asked whether the group is opposed to the current use of the product on some roads across the state.

Ms. Houston acknowledged that the product is being used, but said the authorization came from a divisional order rather than the enactment of law. She said passage of a bill could lead to much wider use, including sales for personal use.

Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) asked how long the product has been in use in Ohio.

Ms. Houston said it dates to about 2004, when an order was issued by the chief of the Division of Oil & Gas. She told Mr. Leland she does not have any data about the condition of soil near where the product has been used, but said DNR may have that information.

Bill Rish of ToxStrategies lent support for the bill, telling the panel that Nature's Own and Duck Creek Energy asked him to consider whether the use of AquaSalina for deicing roads present significant ecological or health risks.

He said his research has shown that the product will not create unacceptable ecological or human health risks and has impacts that are much lower than the use of rock salt.

"I found that laboratory data demonstrate that the use of AquaSalina will not result in exceeding Ohio surface water criteria for protection of aquatic species or protection for agricultural use of surface water for any of the substances present in the product," he said. "I also found that laboratory data for the content of AquaSalina, when compared to my published study, show that AquaSalina will not result in risk to drinking water, even if an adult or child drinks from a shallow well near the location that AquaSalina is applied. In fact, I expect that this drinking water pathway is unlikely to exist."

That process included a review of third-party and independent certification agencies, as well as academic institutions and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, he said, adding that the Pennsylvania-style brine has much higher radiological levels than AquaSalina.

Responding to questions, Mr. Rish said studies have shown that even a person who would be most exposed to the product from all potential channels would likely only reach 1/100th of a what would be consider a maximum acceptable level.

Rebecca Clutter of NARO Appalachia in written testimony questioned whether the panel has considered mineral owners as part of the debate on the bill, noting that the state itself is a large-scale mineral owner.

"On the surface, this issue is about a single corporation seeking to use recycled brine for use in road applications," she said. "The bigger issue is that the filtered brine kicks back Rare Earth Elements (RRE) from privately owned mineral sources. Specifically we are seeing a high degree of interest regarding Lithium filtered from not only brine, but from coal ponds as well."

"The responsibility to protect private property rights regarding mineral assets inclusive of REE's belongs to all of you," she said. "Our ask is that should brine be listed as a commodity, that it also be looked at from the perspective of how the mineral owner, including the State of Ohio, would be properly compensated and that discussions on this include mineral owners and not simply those tied to industry."

Adam Rissien of the Ohio Sierra Club offered written opponent testimony, saying the bill could lead to the contamination of rivers, streams and lakes.

He said the bill includes language that shows an intent to make brine waste safe for commercial use, but doesn't include direction that could prevent environmental- or health-related issues.

Mr. Rissien said the Ohio Department of Transportation doesn't have testing protocols or a process to ensure the safety of brine waste products, and isn't the right agency to protect natural resources or health.

Processed brine can continue to include heavy materials and radiologicals that could create unnecessary environmental risks, and said the bill doesn't include anything that ensures the safety of processed brine, he wrote. He also raised concerns about provisions that he said "egregiously" limit the authority of state officials to establish rules or additional requirements regarding the substance.

Robbin Rogers of Medina County Together also submitted written opponent testimony.

She said the oil and gas industry has worked to block environmental and health protections. "Today you have an opportunity to take one step-not even a bold step against the fossil fuel industry-but an important step nonetheless," she said. "And it involves supporting a legislature that bucked the national trend and implemented changes to regulations concerning transporting, dispersing, and labeling of products originating or manufactured from fossil fuel brine."

HB WATER SEWER ACQUISITIONS (Ginter, T., Rogers, J.) To govern acquisitions of municipal water-works and sewage disposal system companies by certain larger nonmunicipal water-works or sewage disposal system companies. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Daniel Shields, director of the analytical services department at the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, presented written opponent testimony.

"This concern includes that the bill would undermine the long-time protection of ratemaking statutes that Ohio utility consumers should not pay rates based on more than the original cost of acquiring utility plant (assets)," he said. "The use of original cost for ratemaking is fair to utilities and to consumers, but the bill would redefine original cost in a way that can lead to higher rates for consumers."

Subscribers please note: Testimony is available on the [committee's website](#) under January 23.

Ways & Means

HB HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES (Rogers, J., Scherer, G.) To enact the "Blair Deduction" to allow an **186** individual obtaining a post-secondary degree or credential from an eligible educational institution to claim an income tax deduction for qualified higher education expenses. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

"The provision granting deductions for credentials earned by students will put money back in the pockets of Ohioans," said Daniel Palmer, chief justice of Wright State University's Student Government Association and executive director of the Ohio Student Government Association.

Mr. Palmer said he is concerned about how college students will be claimed as dependents and brought New Jersey's "Dependents Attending Colleges Exemption" to the committee's attention.

He recommended the committee consider including a similar exemption into the bill, which would grant taxpayers a \$1,000 flat deduction that pays at least one half of the "tuition and maintenance costs for a dependent full-time student under age 22," if certain requirements are met.

Mr. Palmer said the exemption saved New Jersey taxpayers \$10.5 million in 2017.

Rep. Blessing asked how this proposal could reduce costs in the long run for college students. If Ohio invests in this matter, the state's institutions will become more marketable which will pay off in the long run, Mr. Palmer said.

Morris W. Beverage Jr., president of Lakeland Community College said in written testimony that the proposal offers relief to Ohio graduates.

"The proposal to adjust the taxable income of recent graduates relative to their out of pocket Qualified Higher Education Expenses is a welcome consideration that recognizes the value of a student and family's investment in education and training, recognizing their struggles, and recognizing their desire to increase their ability to participate in and contribute to workforces and economic development in our state," Mr. Beverage said in testimony.

In written testimony, Dave Wiles, president of CT Consultants, said the bill could help the company compete by expanding its base with high quality graduates in Ohio.

"I strongly believe that any incentive that can enhance the benefits of a post-secondary education, including any financial assistance to help graduates with their responsibilities towards repayment of their school loans, is not only good for our local, state and federal governments, but it is in the student's best interests towards becoming independent and responsible tax-paying citizens," Edward Brown, CFO and owner of the Brown Aveda Institutes, Casal Aveda Institute, and Ladies and Gentlemen Salon and Spas, said in written testimony.

HB COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS (Duffey, M.) To exempt from sales and use tax textbooks purchased by post-**337** secondary students. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

"Eliminating the sales tax on textbooks will make the cost of obtaining a higher education more affordable, obtainable, and prove to be beneficial to the hundreds and thousands of students in Ohio," James Curtis, a student at Wright State University told the committee.

According to the College Board, the annual cost of books and materials for students is \$1,168 and this cost is expected to grow if the textbook inflation rate continues, Mr. Curtis said.

Numerous polls have revealed the negative impact financial burdens, including rising textbook prices, can have on education, he explained.

Rep. Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati) asked if the lower sales tax would raise demand and therefore the price of textbooks, resulting a situation where textbook prices remain high. Mr. Curtis replied that if demand increases, supply would follow.

Mr. Curtis told Rep. Michael Henne (R-Clayton) that increasing the use of online materials and encouraging faculty to be lenient on which editions of textbooks are required would also help to ease the financial burden of textbooks for students.

Mr. Curtis told Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) that the exemption would not apply to high schools that buy textbooks for College Credit Plus programs.

Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) asked if any student groups had appealed to publishers of these textbooks to inquire about the rising costs. There have been many initiatives and petitions to try to reach the publishers to little or no effect, Mr. Curtis replied.

In October, the Ohio Faculty Council voted on a resolution which established a set of approaches to reduce textbook costs for students in the state of Ohio, Dan Krane professor of biological sciences at Wright State University and chair of the Ohio Faculty Council, told the committee.

If fully implemented, the proposal would result in a savings of \$300 million annually, Mr. Krane said.

Many states already exempt textbook sales from their sales tax, giving those states a competitive advantage when trying to recruit students, he said.

Mr. Krane said he does not believe implementing a sales tax exemption would lead faculty members to choose textbooks that are not exempt for reasons regarding profit.

He told Rep. Blessing it is hard to tell how high the cost of textbooks would be if the states mentioned had not implemented sales tax exemptions. However, the sales tax exemption is third on the faculty council's list of initiatives to lower textbook costs and other proposals may be more impactful.

Mr. Krane said he is concerned about Ohio being at a competitive disadvantage to other state institutions for recruitment purposes, not necessarily for cross-border tax avoidance strategies.

He told Rep. Merrin that the exemption applies to any book required by a collegiate course syllabus in the state of Ohio. For companies like Amazon, there would need to be a mechanism to exempt the sales tax, he added.

LSC noted that if a student purchases a book online, the bill requires the student to provide the company with their address, the title of the academic course, name and address of the institution and the student's university identification card number, among other information. (LSC Analysis)

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Twp.) asked how it would be determined if a book is a required textbook. LSC noted that the bill restricts the exemption to books assigned by a course syllabus.

Rep. Bill Patmon (D-Cleveland) asked how the bill would work to help students over time, assuming textbook price inflation continues.

Governor Kasich inspired the faculty council's set of proposals to ease the financial burden on college students, Mr. Krane said.

"The textbook industry is a broken business model," Mr. Krane told the committee. To address the situation involving publishers and used booksellers, the faculty council recommends an "inclusive access" strategy, which calls for institutions to negotiate the price of books with publishers rather than leaving this to the students, he explained.

Rep. Patmon said he is concerned that there is no mechanism to prevent the increasing price inflation. Mr. Krane said he does not believe the sales tax exemption will fully address the problem, but the "inclusive access" provision of the faculty council's approach could.

Rep. Schaffer asked if the professor knew who benefits from the increasing textbook costs. Members of university faculty are not the leading beneficiaries, Mr. Krane explained as the author of a textbook himself. The publishers and the used booksellers are the "culprits," he added.

In response to Rep. Merrin's statement that professors have a tremendous power in choosing the latest and most expensive edition of textbooks, Mr. Krane replied that in the interest of academic freedom he does not believe this right should be infringed upon. However, as a professor he has experienced the games publishers play by only including online access codes on the latest editions, which contain necessary tools for the course, Mr. Krane added.

The faculty council is working diligently to find an incentive to encourage faculty to develop alternatives to expensive books, he told the committee.

Rep. Schaffer asked if there are anti-trust concerns in situations where faculty may ban together with publishers. Mr. Krane said it would be more likely to see this from the academic institutions. Nonetheless, the inclusive access strategy has been successful in Indiana and publishers have been open to the method, he explained.

HB MILITARY TAX EXEMPTION (Perales, R., Butler, J.) To require municipal corporations to exempt from **351** taxation the military pay of members of the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

On behalf of the Ohio Council of Chapters Military Officers Association, Colonel John McCoy said in written testimony that the proposal to delete the terms "armed forces" and replace it with "uniformed services" from the code would have no fiscal impact to the state.

The change would extend benefits to Public Health Services and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which support other military services, are subject to deployments, and react to national emergencies among other duties, Mr. McCoy said in testimony.

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies are available on the [committee website](#) under Jan. 23.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB APIARY DAMAGES (Stein, D.) To grant specified apiary owners immunity in personal injury or property **392** damage cases. (REPORTED (No testimony); 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) and Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) voted against the measure.

HB VETERINARY EDUCATION (Kelly, B., Brinkman, T.) To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to **433** two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Kelly (D-Cincinnati) said her bill is a common sense approach to enable veterinarians in Ohio to earn continuing education credit by performing free spaying and neutering services at a county humane society, dog pound or nonprofit.

For every hour spent providing these services, veterinarians would receive one-half hour credit of continuing education towards the annual requirement, she explained. Participating veterinarians could receive up to two hours of credit per renewal.

The goal of the bill is to responsibly curb the issue of pet overpopulation, Rep. Kelly said. The Humane Society of the United States successfully lobbied for similar bill in the state of New York in 2016, she added.

Rep. Kelly told Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) that the bill would not change the number of hours required for continuing education, rather it provides veterinarians the option to apply time spent volunteering to the credits.

Rep. Lepore-Hagan inquired if there was a need for the incentive. Co-Sponsor Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) said the goal of the bill is to address the problem of overpopulated animal shelters while providing veterinarians with an incentive to volunteer their time rather than fulfilling their continuing education credits at a luxurious conference.

Many veterinarians are already donating their time to provide free spaying and neutering services, Rep. Kelly told the committee. This bill provides a practical incentive to continue to do so.

HB FOOD OPERATION FEES (Sweeney, M.) To require a seasonal food service operation license fee to be **444** one-half of the license fee for a food service operation that is not a seasonal food service operation.

■ **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

Rep. Martin Sweeney (D-Cleveland) said his bill will allow for a separate food license for half of the year, in addition to the standard year-long operation license to accommodate seasonal food businesses.

"This legislation will allow these businesses to save a little bit of money on their license, which in turn, could be used to hire additional seasonal help," Rep. Sweeney said. "As the seasonal help at these types of businesses are often high school students, this will help instill a strong work ethic in even more young Ohioans throughout the state."

Rep. Sweeney told Rep. Dick Stein (R-Norwalk) that a food truck entity could apply for the seasonal license if it operated for less than six months out of the year.

Rep. Brinkman said he liked the idea of a seasonal operating license and wondered if it could apply to all types of seasonal businesses including entities like golf courses and hockey rinks.

The sponsor replied that the mentioned entities do not need to apply for a yearly license, but that he is open to the committee's feedback and suggestions.

Rep. Sweeney told Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) that if a golf course has a seasonal food business, then that food business could apply for a seasonal permit.

Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton) asked if the sponsor had considered the impacts on a county with a high density of seasonal workers. Rep. Sweeney replied that he had not but would work closely with the committee and representatives from those areas to address that issue.

Rep. Lepore-Hagan inquired how the funds would be supplemented with some revenue streams being cut in half. Rep. Sweeney replied that though the revenue stream would be eliminated, the change would have a minimal impact on the general fund of most counties to the great benefit of small, seasonal businesses.

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies can be found on the [committee website](#) under Jan. 23.

Government Accountability & Oversight

HJR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of **4** the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of

bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. **(CONTINUED (No testimony); 9th Hearing-All testimony)**

HBUNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.) To modify terms describing payments made under **382** the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. **(CONTINUED (No testimony); 9th Hearing-All testimony)**

HBTRAFFIC VIOLATIONS (Seitz, B., Butler, J.) To grant municipal and county courts original and exclusive **410** jurisdiction over any civil action concerning a traffic law violation, to specify that the court require an advance deposit for the filing of specified civil actions by the local authority bringing the civil action, and to modify the reporting requirements and LGF withholding that apply to subdivisions that operate traffic law photo-monitoring devices. **(CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)**

Traffic safety activist Sharon Montgomery raised questions about the use of traffic cameras in interested party testimony.

One problem with red-light cameras is how they enforce legal right turns at red lights, she said. One solution is to eliminate the option at intersections with cameras.

The bill could solve procedural issues regarding traffic cameras by ensuring they go through the court system, she said.

Ms. Montgomery also raised questions about the revenue motive behind traffic cameras. She asked if the increased safety provided by the cameras balanced the revenue generated by them.

"What evidence is there that municipalities have installed cameras for revenue only?" she asked. "How do we determine motive? Why is it not okay to make money while also doing something good?"

Ms. Montgomery also cited evidence that red-light cameras reduce T-bone crashes but increase rear-end crashes, and said roundabouts have also been implemented to the same effect.

She suggested the legislature work to ensure cameras don't penalize legal actions and fix procedures for dealing with tickets, but that cities not be penalized for efforts to improve safety and generate revenue.

"Revenue challenges already exist for many, if not most, local governments," she said. "They have been asked to 'do more with less' and not to make up already existing reductions in state funding by increasing local taxes."

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) asked Ms. Montgomery if municipalities were using revenue from traffic cameras on safety issues.

Ms. Montgomery said she was aware that the bill would require money to be spent on safety. Local governments, compared to the state, are often best positioned to ensure money is used effectively, she said.

Kent Scarrett, executive director of the Ohio Municipal League, wrote in opposition to the bill, saying it would create unnecessary burdens for municipalities in enforcing local safety regulations.

"The bill strips cities and villages of their right to use administrative hearings for civil citation issuance via traffic camera, which is an effective and financially-responsible means of providing a hearing process - particularly for Ohio's small villages, which are often under-staffed and financially strained," he wrote.

The bill also re-litigates an issue already decided by the Ohio Supreme Court, Mr. Scarrett said.

A major concern he cited was that it would require municipalities to file an annual report with the tax commissioner and the municipality's local government fund disbursement would be reduced accordingly.

"Despite the Constitutional right municipalities have to operate traffic cameras, this bill seeks to punish those municipalities who use that right by further depleting the revenues they need to ensure safety and provide local services," he said.

HB ENERGY TAX EXEMPTION (Schaffer, T.) To expand the scope of a sales and use tax exemption for **430** certain kinds of property used in the production of oil and gas. (**CONTINUED (No testimony)**; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB PUBLIC RECORDS (Retherford, W.) To exclude from the definition of public record under the Public **451** Records Law any depiction by photograph, film, videotape, or digital, visual, or printed material of victims of crime under specified circumstances dealing with the victims' bodily privacy. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor Rep. Wes Retherford (R-Hamilton) said the bill is designed to protect victims in sexually oriented crimes, such as voyeurism, from having images submitted as evidence in a court case released as a public record.

"Ohio is a very open and transparent state and we have some of the most transparent public records laws in the country," he said. "Government transparency is key to an effective republic. However, ascertaining these photos, videos, images, etc. would have no effect on ensuring public protection through open records laws, instead would just lead to the potential of having an already violated individual become victimized again, when they should be focused on rebuilding in the aftermath."

The bill came from a conversation with police in Hamilton, who raised concerns that they would have to release compromising images if such records were requested.

"While this has not been, to the best of my knowledge, an issue yet, I believe that the proper thing for the General Assembly to do is to take a proactive approach to this issue," Rep. Retherford said. "Why should we wait for this to happen before we respond?"

HB HOSPITAL CLOSINGS (Schuring, K., West, T.) To require that a for-profit hospital and its affiliated **462** health care facilities in certain counties follow specified procedures before ceasing operations or closing, and to declare an emergency. (**CONTINUED (No testimony)**; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Small Cell Wireless: Sponsor Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls) testified in an informal hearing on a bill (**HB 478**) introduced Tuesday that deals with small cell wireless technology.

The technology - low-powered antennas attached to streetlights and poles that help upgrade wireless networks - was the subject of controversy when lawmakers included language in a bill last session (SB331, 131st General Assembly) allowing communication companies to install the antennas in municipal rights-of-way.

Municipalities filed lawsuits against the provision and courts found the law violated the Ohio Constitution's single subject rule. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 31, 2017)

"Rather than merely passing the same language as a standalone bill, we asked the wireless industry and the municipalities to see if they could resolve their differences, so we can pass a law that will remove the uncertainty caused by the litigation and spur the investment and innovation as was originally intended," Rep. LaTourette said.

The bill creates uniform fees - a \$250 application fee for request and \$200 annual charge to attach to a municipally owned or controlled pole - and a process for obtaining permits. It also lays out approaches for municipalities to protect the aesthetic character of the right-of-way. (LSC analysis)

Rep. LaTourette, who is sponsoring the bill alongside Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell), said the language stems from negotiations over the past three months with municipal officials, city engineers and representatives of the wireless industry.

"This was truly a collaborative effort and the participants should be commended for not only their hard work but also their willingness to negotiate a solution," she said. "The bill before you balances the industry's need to deploy small cells in a timely manner with municipalities' legitimate interest in protecting the aesthetic character of the public way."

Criminal Justice

HB POLICE ANIMALS (LaTourette, S.) To increase the penalty for assaulting a police dog or horse and to **349** include search and rescue dogs and horses in the prohibition against assaulting or harassing a police animal. **(CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)**

Before hearing testimony, the panel accepted a substitute bill offered by Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) to restore existing penalties for assault on a police animal and to set the same penalties for assault on search and rescue animals. (Comp doc)

In proponent testimony, Dr. Robert Davis said search and rescue dogs and horses oftentimes encounter the same types of interference as experienced by police dogs and horses.

"Sometimes SAR teams enter private property either unknowingly or accompanied by law enforcement as part of the investigation," he said. "Although distinguishably marked, SAR animals may be subject to various actions by hostile property owners. It may also be the case that the subject of the search was not initially known to be a criminal actor and, when the SAR dog or horse makes contact with the subject, there is potential for harm."

Alice Ault of Miami Valley Mounted Search and Rescue said in proponent testimony that attacks on SAR animals have a high probability of resulting in serious injuries to humans.

"Injury occurs to the equestrian as the result of the equine falling onto the equestrian after it has been violently attacked," she said "This is one of the reasons horsemanship has been determined to be the most dangerous sport in the sports world. Some SAR equine can weigh more than twelve hundred pounds. Because of this, an equine falling onto a rider, as the result of a violent attack, can result in a multitude of traumatic injuries; the most serious, being paralysis or death."

Janelle Hideg of the Midwest K9 Search Unit also provided proponent testimony.

The panel also received written proponent testimony from Jerry Whaley of the Buckeye Emergency Response Training School.

HB COUNTERFEITING (Perales, R.) To create the offense of counterfeiting and to include counterfeiting **405** within the definition of "corrupt activity" under the Corrupt Activities Law. (**REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-Possible amendments & vote**)

The bill was amended by Rep. Rezabek to clarify that someone in possession of five or more access devices faces up to a third-degree felony charge.

HB VETERAN TREATMENT (Butler, J., Perales, R.) To permit courts to create veterans treatment courts and **409** to allow courts to divert certain criminal defendants to participate in veterans treatment court. **(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)**

Montgomery County Common Pleas Court Judge Dennis Adkins said the need for the legislation has drastically increased since Sept. 11, 2001.

During the War on Terror, he said, some veterans have been deployed overseas as many as nine times.

"Some are changed more than others. Some suffer from serious problems," Judge Adkins said.

Judge Adkins created a veterans' treatment court in 2013. He said it has proven to be successful with a lower recidivism rate than other specialized dockets.

"The numbers speak for themselves. We have been very successful," he said.

HB BAIL DETERMINATIONS (Deyer, J., Ginter, T.) To require courts to use the results of a validated risk **439** assessment tool in bail determinations; to allow nonmonetary bail to be set; to require courts to collect certain data on bail, pretrial release, and sentencing; and to require the state Criminal Sentencing Commission to create a list of validated risk assessment tools and monitor the policies and procedures of courts in setting bail and utilizing pretrial supervision services. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent & interested party)

HB DRUG TRAFFICKING (Wiggam, S.) To provide that in determining the amount of cocaine for trafficking **455** offenses, it also includes a compound, mixture, preparation, or substance containing cocaine, to increase penalties for certain drug trafficking offenses, and to name this act the Drug Trafficking Deterrence Act. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Under the measure, individuals charged with trafficking heroin, fentanyl, cocaine or other Scheduled I or II drugs would be charged with at least a third-degree felony that includes mandatory prison time.

"No longer will drug dealers be able to operate in this state with little fear of the law, and Ohio will draw a clear distinction in criminal penalties between trafficking and simply using illegal drugs," Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) said in sponsor testimony.

Rep. Wiggam said that since 2012, Ohio has reduced the incarceration of drug traffickers by 4%, while at the same time, unintentional overdose deaths have increased by 212%.

"We are in a battle for the future of Ohio," he said. "Without deterring drugs from entering and being produced in the state, we are failing those who are currently addicted, and we are jeopardizing our state's future."

Rep. Rezabek questioned the impact the bill would have on the state's already overcrowded prison system, adding he has heard the figure could be as many as 8,000 beds - the equivalent of three maximum security prisons.

Rep. Wiggam disputed the figure, saying the deterrence impact could lead to a much smaller impact.

Rep. Rezabek also questioned whether the bill addresses the definition of trafficking, noting that some users carry scales to ensure that they are not being ripped off when purchasing drugs.

Rep. Wiggam said the bill currently does not address that issue, but he would be open to looking further into the matter.

HB DRUG TREATMENT (Antani, N.) To require that an offender serving a community control sanction or a **457** parolee who fails a drug test for heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil be held in jail or admitted to a residential treatment program for up to 30 days. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) said the legislation was spurred by Scottie Childers, who failed a drug test during a probation check-in and died of an overdose four hours later.

"Scottie's mother, Linda Chambers, was shocked that her son was able to walk out after testing positive. In this case, had Scottie been sent to jail, it would have saved his life," he said in sponsor testimony. "This bill will help protect and save the lives of individuals afflicted with substance abuse."

The bill would require individuals subject to community control or parole sanctions to be immediately sent to jail or a treatment facility if they test positive for heroin, fentanyl or carfentanil.

"I completely agree that those struggling with substance abuse should be treated as addicts who need treatment, and not as criminals. However, in current reality, we simply do not have enough residential treatment facilities for those who need it," he said.

"While we in the General Assembly must address that issue, we also must face where we are today in Ohio and the challenges that we are up against. While we are working on getting more treatment facilities, there has to be somewhere for individuals afflicted with substance abuse to go, and jail is the safest place for them."

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) questioned why cocaine is not included in the bill.

Rep. Antani said he was trying to narrowly tailor the bill to lessen the impact on county jails. He added that the original charge has to have involved one of the drugs named in the bill.

HBHUMAN TRAFFICKING (Fedor, T., Galonski, T.) To require a juvenile court to hold a delinquency **461** complaint in abeyance if the court has reason to believe that the act charged might be prostitution related or that the child might be a victim of human trafficking and to provide that the same elements for the offense of trafficking in persons that apply to a victim under the age of sixteen also apply to a victim who is age sixteen or seventeen. **(SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

The bill was pulled from the agenda at the sponsor's request.

Subscriber's Note: For full written testimony, see the committee's website under Jan. 23.

Education & Career Readiness

HBSCHOOL FOODS (Ingram, C.) To permit districts and schools to re-serve time- and temperature-controlled **224** food items to students if items are unused and returned unopened, undamaged, and in the original packaging. **(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent & Interested party)**

Rachel Tilford, food service director of Little Miami Schools and legislative chairperson for the School Nutrition Association of Ohio, said allowing food-sharing tables can benefit students who are food insecure.

However, the Department of Health currently requires any food remaining on sharing tables at the end of the day to be discarded, even if proper procedures are in place to safely store the food and keep it at proper temperatures.

Having to throw that food away results in about \$3,000 of waste annually in her district of 5,000 students alone, Ms. Tilford said.

"It is difficult to throw perfect good food in a garbage can. Try opening your refrigerator and tossing several dollars' worth of food into the trash," she said. "Staff have expressed concern that if people in our conservative community ever witnesses such waste that our department would be viewed negatively for wasting taxpayers' money and probably wind up as a scandalous media story."

She told Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) that many schools face shortfalls in their food service budgets and use money from the general fund used for educational purposes to provide lunches.

While schools lose lunch profits on calamity days, they typically don't lose product because district food service workers can go to schools and freeze any items that won't keep while school is called off, Ms. Tilford said in response to a question from Rep. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain).

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) questioned how schools keep cold items such as milk and yogurt at a safe temperature after they've been served. The witness said students typically don't have the items on their lunch trays for more than 15 minutes and then they're placed in insulated or temperature controlled storage that's monitored by a thermometer.

Jessica Shelly, food service director for Cincinnati Public Schools, also submitted written testimony in support of the bill. She said the school throws out an estimated \$500,000 in products each year that are paid for by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

HBESC BOARDS (Hambley, S., Kick, D.) To permit the addition of appointed members to educational service center boards and to permit a local school district to sever its territory from one educational service center and annex that territory to an adjacent service center under specified conditions. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Joint sponsor, Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) said the bill aims to "increase member schools' participation in ESC governance and return choice to school districts whose hands were tied under previous law changes.

The measure allows the governing board of any single county ESC to add appointed members who represent client school districts of the service center that are not otherwise represented on the board, he said. Multi-county ESCs already have this ability.

It also permits a local school district to sever its territory from one ESC and annex that territory to an adjacent ESC under certain conditions, joint sponsor Rep. Darrell Kick (R-Loudonville) said.

"Initial indications are that the only affected school districts would be Black River Local School District, and the five school districts in Sandusky County," he said, noting that the provision is permissive.

Responding to questions from the committee, Rep. Hambley said the Ohio Educational Service Center Association is supportive of the bill, which wouldn't allow appointed members to outnumber elected officials on boards.

Currently in the Black River Local School District, residents elect board members to an ESC they don't receive services from, which is what the bill is attempting to remedy, he said.

HBSCHOOL ATHLETICS (Antani, N.) To authorize any student from a country or province outside the United States who attends an elementary or secondary school in Ohio and holds an F-1 visa to participate in interscholastic athletics at that school on the same basis as Ohio residents. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Students who come to America on F-1 visas don't get a complete high school experience because they're currently not allowed to play sports, sponsoring Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) said.

"The Ohio High School Athletic Association and its members - around 85% of which are public high schools, paid for by taxpayers - arbitrarily decided several years ago that some international students, like exchange students who are here for a year on a J-1 visa, may play sports, but others, who may be here for four years on an F-1 visa, may not participate unless they meet specific criteria that are not applicable to the vast majority of students who receive an F-1 visa," he said.

He pointed to a 2015 comment from the OHSSA commissioner, who said that sports teach students life lessons, such as teamwork and commitment.

"Why would we want to deny a segment of students attending high school in Ohio from having these valuable experiences, just because of where they were born and the type of visa they have to legally attend school here?" Rep. Antani asked. "It is not something that our state government should let happen, especially when such rules are made by our public schools."

Rep. Ramos and Rep. Patterson raised concerns about recruiting athletes if the bill were to be approved.

"There has been concern that it's possible that students like this might congregate, some might use the term recruitment, in some particular schools and thus instead of a level playing field...it makes it harder for schools to compete," Rep. Patterson said.

Rep. Antani said it doesn't seem likely that schools would attempt to recruit students and there are OSHAA penalties in place for those that are caught doing so.

He suggested that private schools would only accept individuals who meet certain academic standards, which would make recruiting even more difficult.

By all accounts, students with J-1 visas, who are typically short-term foreign exchange students, aren't currently recruited despite being permitted to play OSHAA sports, Rep. Antani added.

HCREDUCATION PLAN (Gavarone, T.) To approve Ohio's state education plan for implementation of the **11th** federal Every Student Succeeds Act. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Public Utilities

HB ELECTRIC COMPANIES (Sprague, R.) To clarify the definition of "electric distribution company" for **143rd** kilowatt-hour tax purposes. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Robert Sprague's bill would preserve the previously-granted exemption of self-generators from the kilowatt-hour tax when it comes to power distribution, according to the sponsor.

The bill, he argued, is necessary to ensure exemptions spelled out in a 2001 law are properly applied by the Ohio Department of Taxation. That bill (SB3, 123rd General Assembly) exempted self-generators from the tax but the sponsor said that in recent years, ODT has begun levying the tax on some entities that should qualify as self-generators.

"This specific issue has to do with the interpretation of language regarding the tax on the distribution of energy over the grid," he said. "Since 'self-generator' is not specifically defined under Ohio's tax code, the Ohio Department of Taxation is treating certain entities that fit under the Ohio Revised Code Section 4928.01 definition of a 'self-generator' as electric distribution companies."

A substitute version of the bill is forthcoming after continued talks with ODT and other parties, Rep. Sprague (R-Findlay) said.

"My hope is we will soon reach a consensus on the language issues, but, due to certain views on the original principle of the exemption, there will still be opposition," Rep. Sprague said. "My intention was and is not to address the principle of whether the exemption is right or wrong; it is to clarify the intentions of Senate Bill 3 from the 123rd General Assembly."

The sponsor told Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) that "a lot of resistance" has been aired in interested party meetings over whether justification for the exemptions exists. "We're really not going to address that particular issue of the exemption," he said of the philosophical debate.

HBUTILITY LAW (Romanchuk, M.) To require refunds to utility customers who have been improperly **247th** charged, to eliminate electric security plans and require all electric standard service offers to be delivered through market-rate offers, and to strengthen corporate separation requirements. (CONTINUED; 6th Hearing-All testimony)

Proponents continued pressing House lawmakers to support a bill to ban electric security plans over the objections of utility companies.

Tuesday marked the sixth hearing of the bill from Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) which has been praised by consumer advocates as a way to bypass above-market riders levied on customers. But utilities remain staunchly opposed, arguing previously that MROs are less flexible and reduce competition. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 12, 2017)

Ohio Consumers' Counsel Bruce Weston reiterated his support for the bill, echoing remarks he's made before in front of the committee. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, November 14, 2017](#))

"In short, you would be solving a lot of problems and doing a lot of good for Ohioans by reforming the 2008 law to eliminate electric security plans," Mr. Weston argued.

Ned Hill, an Ohio State University economist, agreed, criticizing the deal-making process in which utilities secure interested party support for ESPs through settlement agreement "carve outs."

"In a market-based economy markets should operate for the benefit of consumers, not for the benefit of companies," he said. "House Bill 247 will ensure that this remains true for electricity customers, and not just the few that are favored in special interest carve-outs in ESPs."

Barry Matchett, director of external affairs for NRG Energy, also voiced support for the bill, which he said contains "worthy policy goals" for Ohio consumers and large energy users.

"Let me also be clear that this is a compromise bill from the start," Mr. Matchett said. "I will admit there were many proposed items that my own company would have liked to have seen included in this legislation. But what you have before you is a solid base of reforms to protect and preserve the robust and developing energy market here in Ohio primarily to the benefit of customers."

Micah Derry, state director for Americans for Prosperity-Ohio, submitted written interested party testimony stating the legislation is a "natural step on the heels" of a House-passed bill to rework the renewable energy standards ([HB 114](#)).

"As it relates to HB247, we think the steps taken in the legislation to eliminate the Electricity Security Plans (ESP) are an encouraging provision, as this would largely preclude the ability of utilities to charge above-market rates to consumers," Mr. Derry wrote.

"It would also open the way for more pro-consumer competitive outcomes through the default adoption of the Market-Rate Offer (MRO) ratemaking mechanism, which is intrinsically competitive since it sets rates through a competitive bidding process," he continued.

[HB](#) TELEPHONE REGULATION ([Hill, B.](#)) To revise state regulation of telephone companies. **[402](#)** (CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent)


Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under Jan. 23.

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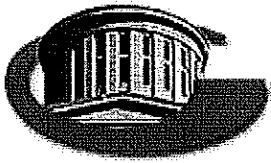
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Senate Activity for Tuesday, January 23, 2018

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Health, Human Services & Medicaid

HBCONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT (Huffman, S., Sprague, R.) To provide for the establishment of a **145**confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency.

■ (REPORTED-AMENDED; 4th Hearing -All testimony-Possible vote)

The committee voted unanimously to report the bill after accepting two amendments.

The first amendment, offered by Chairman Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), deals with the potential of a move of Medicaid long-term services and supports into managed care. That proposal was hotly debated in the budget, with the General Assembly putting a limit on the administration's plan to implement the move, and Gov. John Kasich vetoing the language. The issue was resolved when the Kasich administration announced it would not begin the move.

The amendment states that the General Assembly would have the final say in whether Medicaid can move long-term care services to managed care, said Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton).

The other amendment includes language considered but tabled in December dealing with the move of the regulation of dietitians and respiratory care providers to the State Medical Board. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 5, 2017)

HBPALLIATIVE CARE (LaTourette, S.) To create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary **286**Council, to establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and
■ to require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care.
(CONTINUED-AMENDED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor & Possible amendments)

The committee accepted an amendment offered by Sen. Burke that adds exercise physiologists to list of experts that can be appointed to the interdisciplinary council, clarifies what non-hospice palliative care candidates may receive the service from a hospice facility, and makes technical corrections.

Sponsor Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls) said the bill would create an interdisciplinary council and education program to raise awareness about palliative care.

Palliative care, in which a patient's quality of life is improved by reducing symptoms, pain and stress by giving them more control, is appropriate at any point in an illness, not just at the end of life.

"Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage of a serious illness, but when palliative care is mentioned many people do instantly think of 'hospice care' and the conversation stops," she said. "Because of this, palliative care is drastically and disappointingly underutilized in our state."

The council would include members from fields that work closely with palliative care recipients, and would serve as an advisory council to the Department of Health," Rep. LaTourette said. "The bill also creates an education program to inform patients and medical providers about the care."

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) asked what the council's main objective would be.

The sponsor said education is important, because if people don't know about palliative care, they won't take advantage of it. The council would also be required to submit annual reports to the General Assembly.

HB EBT CARDS (Schaffer, T.) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the **50** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB HEALTH CARE IDENTIFICATION (Tavares, C.) To require a health care professional to wear **110** identification when providing care or treatment in the presence of a patient. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The bill would require certain health care professionals to wear an identification card, badge or similar device, including a photograph, when providing care, sponsor Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) said. The badge would be required to include the person's licensure status and staff position.

"Without this legislation it is all too easy for patients to confuse who is and is not a licensed health care professional," she said. "It is also very easy for unlicensed or unqualified individuals to administer care to unaware patients. The misrepresentation of the level of training held by health care professionals is dangerous and can result in the loss of a loved one's life."

The sponsor detailed the story of a patient in South Carolina who ultimately died from complications from a pain reliever after surgery and whose mother repeatedly asked for a veteran physician at the hospital to examine him, but was only met by residents.

"It is vital that health care professionals are required to wear identification of who they are and what their level of training is in order to insure the utmost level of transparency between patients and health professionals," she said.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) asked the sponsor if she has checked with hospitals to see if it is already in practice.

Sen. Tavares said she didn't know how common of a practice it is, particularly in smaller hospital systems and practices.

Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) said many people wear badges backwards, and suggested that the requirement be that the name and status be visible.

That's the intent of the bill, Sen. Tavares said, but it could be made explicit in the bill.

SB AWARENESS WEEK (Tavares, C.) To designate the last week of September as "Diaper Need Awareness **192** Week." (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Tavares said her bill would designate the final week of September as Diaper Need Awareness Week, focusing on the need by low-income families of diapers and to rally support for diaper bank programs.

"Children in low-income families are at the greatest risk of suffering the effects of diaper need because many families cannot afford diapers," she said. "Current public support programs help some, but young children have additional needs necessary to build a strong foundation for healthy growth. More awareness needs to be brought to such a critical but oftentimes overlooked necessity for Ohio families."

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is the only federal program that can cover diapers, and families are often forced to choose between diapers and other services TANF covers, such as heat, electric, rent, clothing and transportation, Sen. Tavares said.

"This bill is simply meant to bring attention to this important need and to encourage those of us with a little extra to donate to the Diaper Banks in our communities or to start them," she said.

Insurance & Financial Institutions

HB HPRS RETIREMENT (Carfagna, R., Ramos, D.) To revise the law governing the State Highway Patrol **362** Retirement System. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Mark Atkeson, executive director of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System, said the bill would help the pension fund ensure continued solvency.

The bill would return the minimum retirement age to 52 for new hires after Jan. 1, 2020, calculate pension benefits for off-duty disabilities based on a minimum 12-year service benefit instead of 20 years, and eliminate the automatic 50% unfunded survivor benefit, creating a set amount of \$900, increasing annually as the board determines.

The measure would also provide no survivor benefits for those who marry after retirement.

"These changes reduce the amortization period of our unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, and when these changes are fully realized, they will have a compounding cumulative effect on reducing our unfunded liabilities," he said. "In addition, these are considered best practices and are consistent with other similar systems."

Robert Booker, president of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirees' Association, said the changes are needed to ensure the system's long-term health.

"Like with other pension systems, our system continues to face actuarial assumption changes that have not been seen before," he said. "Probably, the most significant change was the reduction of the investment assumed rate of return. These assumption changes increase the unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities of a pension system. The legislative changes the HPRS board has approved are necessary and will decrease the amortization period of the system's unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, thus improving its solvency."

In written testimony, HPRS Board member Matt Them voiced support for the proposal.

"I realize no one wants to see any change in benefits, myself included, but this legislation is in the best interest of the retirement system and its long-term solvency," he said. "Thus, in the long-run, a solvent and well-funded system will benefit all of us individually."

Chairman Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) said he hopes to vote the bill out of the committee next week.

SB HEALTH PLAN CLAIMS (Huffman, M.) To require health plan issuers to release certain claim **227** information to group plan policyholders. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

Government Oversight & Reform


SJR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING (Huffman, M.) To establish a process for congressional **5** redistricting. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-All testimony)

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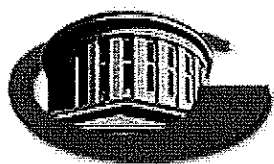
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GONGWER Ohio
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Volume #87, Report #15 -- Tuesday, January 23, 2018

Lawmakers Urged To Find Bipartisan Agreement On Redistricting Revamp; Sponsor Says Changes Afoot

A key Ohio business group told legislators Tuesday that it could get behind a proposal to change how congressional districts are drawn in Ohio - as long as the plan has "strong" buy-in from both parties.

The sponsor of the proposal, meanwhile, said he wouldn't move forward with process changes without bipartisan support, and that several changes to reach that goal are already under consideration.

Keith Lake, vice president of government affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, told members of the Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee reviewing the GOP's resolution (SJR 5) that his group prefers the approach taken in 2015, when a bipartisan agreement led to a General Assembly-backed ballot issue on legislative redistricting that was later approved by more than 70% of voters.

He noted the chamber had previously opposed two citizen-initiated constitutional amendments on the same subject, while the 2015 issue "was put on the ballot by overwhelming bipartisan majorities of the General Assembly and, most importantly, prevents one political party from controlling the process."

"The Ohio Chamber would prefer the congressional redistricting process be revised the same way - beginning with a proposal put on the ballot by the General Assembly after it has garnered support from strong bipartisan majorities," Mr. Lake said.

"While a step in the right direction, SJR5 is not yet that. Unfortunately, what we've observed up to this point is much criticism of SJR5 but not much in the way of constructive feedback. We urge everyone to work together to find a solution that does what our board urged in its 2012 resolution: develop 'an accountable, bipartisan approach that Ohio voters can rely on to produce effective reform and fair congressional districts.'"

Echoing opponents of the measure, Mr. Lake said it's important to revise the process appropriately because the current system "isn't working for Ohioans."

"It leads to diminished General Election competition and contributes to intensified partisanship and contentiousness, which turns off otherwise qualified potential public servants from pursuing office," he said.

Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) said Democrats were ready to work on an agreeable plan, but Republicans have been reluctant to do so and instead rolled out a resolution without their input.

"We agree with you a measure needs to be bipartisan," he said.

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), the resolution sponsor, said he has "no intention of moving forward with a resolution out of the Senate...unless there is a change of Democratic support for it." He added that a one-sided plan would likely lose at the ballot anyway.

At that point in the committee hearing, the sponsor informed the audience that several changes were in the works, including making the commission's product a bill that must receive the governor's signature and be subject to a referendum. Taking the governor out of it was his idea, but people don't like it, he acknowledged.

In an interview before the hearing, Sen. Huffman said other changes under consideration would address several of the opponents' complaints with his package.

Those include "tightening language" on county splits and removing the provision dealing with one man, one vote requirements, he said. Altering the percentage of minority party buy-in on maps is also under consideration.

The sponsor said he plans more meetings with interested parties on the measure, which will not be voted out of committee Wednesday despite being slated for possible movement.

He hopes to resolve the differences over the next several days and have the resolution ready for a committee report next Tuesday, Sen. Huffman said. "I really think it's coming together."

Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) responded in committee to the sponsor's comments of the looming "substantial changes" by saying that Democrats would look closely at the totality of the plan and its expected results versus individual components.

"We are interested in addressing gerrymandering, not just changing how you do gerrymandering," he said.

Sen. Huffman responded, "We will work together on this and will come up with something good."

Mr. Lake's testimony stood out Tuesday as coming from an "interested party." All of the other witnesses, including representatives of a group that's already circulating petitions for a citizen-backed constitutional amendment - Fair Districts=Fair Elections - were listed as opponents.

Among them was Heather Taylor-Miesle, executive director of the Ohio Environmental Council, who said a more bipartisan approach is key to ultimately creating "fair, representative policies" on matters impacting the environment and other areas.

"Bipartisan solutions are more likely when voters select their elected officials and not the other way around, and keeping communities together gives voters leverage to demand action on the pollution going into the neighborhood creek or attention to the quality of their air," she said.

Ms. Taylor-Miesle raised several concerns with the approach laid out in the proposal at hand, including issues related to one person, one vote requirements, splitting of communities and the mapmaking process.

"The requirement under SJR5 to draw districts the exact same population size, with only a variance of plus or minus one person, basically negates any other criteria that could be followed," she said. The community splitting guidelines in the resolution are also problematic because they would be applied unevenly across the state.

Regarding the proposed mapmaking approval process, she added, saying at least 50% of the minority caucuses should be required.

"However, our bigger concern is the commission process outlined if the legislature fails to meet the deadline," Ms. Taylor-Miesle said, citing the ability to pass a four-year plan by a simple majority and then potentially turn it into a 10-year map.

OEC also raised concerns with the lack of a referendum option in the measure and its definition of "compact."

Sen. Huffman called the objections "meritorious arguments" but pointed to the varying sizes of cities and townships and asked if the preference would be to base on population. The witness said it was open to discussion on how to "get there" with the goal of ending up with bipartisan districts.

Asked about the group's objections to the judicial review aspect of the resolution, Ms. Taylor-Miesle said her group was looking for more clarity on language regarding Supreme Court review.

Chairman Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) got into a debate over the Fair Districts proposal with one of several citizens who showed up to testify on their own behalf and express preference for the pending ballot initiative that supporters have said has already attracted some 200,000 signatures.

He asked Jane Cape, a Springfield resident, to explain the legal definition of "representational fairness" in the Fair District plan and how she would defend it in court.

After saying she was not a lawyer and wouldn't be in court under such a scenario, she replied that it was something that results in elections not being decided at the primary level.

As she continued to make her case, the chairman interjected that he had heard all of the "rhetoric" and "histrionics" over the matter, prompting a rebuke from Ms. Cape.

The result was applause from the audience and a subsequent gaveling from the chairman.

Another citizen, Wendy Dyer from Bellbrook, chastised the majority for presenting a plan that she said "legalizes gerrymandering" and was an attempt to get out ahead of and "circumvent" the public initiative.

Ann Henkener of the League of Women Voters of Ohio and a chief proponent of the Fair Districts=Fair Elections campaign, said the Huffman resolution "does nothing to rein in partisan gerrymandering and takes away an important right that voters in Ohio currently have - the right to referendum," while acknowledging the sponsor's prior statement that changes were in the works in that regard.

"Voters also have a right to fair representation and SJR5 perpetuates the ability of the majority party to draw districts designed to gain a disproportionate majority of seats for their party," she said in her prepared remarks. "I urge this Committee to reject this proposal and substitute a plan that will require bi-partisan support to adopt a redistricting plan, keep communities together, and not permit plans to be drawn to primarily favor or disfavor a political party."

Sen. Coley asked why, if the ability to referendum the map was so important, the ballot group didn't include it in their proposed constitutional amendment.

Ms. Henkener responded that the Fair Districts plan wouldn't result in a bill, and that as far as she knows no other state with a commission-based system allows for referendums.

The chairman also queried the LWVO representative on the definition of representational fairness.

She said it deals with the relation between the state's overall political leanings and the number of Congress members representing each party, or "keeping representation connected to the votes."

If 55% of Ohioans vote for Republicans, for instance, then the number of GOP representatives should reflect that split, she said.

Supporters of the citizen-backed ballot issue are not seeking a "concrete result," rather they are "looking for an opportunity" for both parties in the general election, Ms. Henkener said. Under the current system, majority partisans "get an advantage that they really don't have with the electorate."

Sen. Coley said in response, "I don't think that's what your proposal does, but I appreciate" your aspirations.

All told, about 15 people testified or provided written comments in opposition to the proposal on Tuesday, with most largely reiterating objections aired previously by the Fair Districts group. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 22, 2018)

The House's version of the majority GOP's proposal, which Sen. Huffman said would follow along the lines of changes he is already considering, is slated to be discussed Wednesday in the chamber's Government Accountability & Oversight Committee.

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the committee's website under Jan. 23.

Battle Lines Hold Firm On Right-To-Work, Prevailing Wage Proposals

Sponsors of a slate of right-to-work and prevailing wage resolutions said Tuesday they're confident caucus leaders will exercise their "due diligence" when considering whether to move forward.

But they acknowledged that they have yet to formally poll the House Republican Caucus on where members stand regarding their six joint resolutions introduced last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 21, 2017)

A spokesman for House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, meanwhile, reiterated that the Clarksville Republican is open to having the conversation even as Democrats and a top labor group continue blasting the proposals as "anti-worker."

"The speaker is open to having a caucus discussion about this issue, and he believes doing so is very important before any further decisions or determinations are made in regards to these proposals," spokesman Brad Miller said.

Speaking at a Statehouse press conference, Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) said they've been encouraged by the speaker's open-mindedness thus far.

"We've spoken with Speaker Rosenberger and we're going to be bringing this up in caucus very soon," Rep. Riedel said. "Hopefully within the next week or two we'll have a caucus discussion over these issues, these resolutions."

If adopted by lawmakers - a three-fifths majority is required - the proposals would head to the 2020 ballot where sponsors said Ohioans of all political persuasions can weigh in to settle the matter once and for all.

"We're not ramrodding anything," Rep. Riedel said. "People are going to say we are, but we're not. Everybody is going to have a say in the matter and everybody will have the opportunity to vote on this."

Two of the resolutions would ban any laws, rules or agreements requiring public and private sector employees to join or pay union dues (HJR 7) and prohibit unions from representing non-members in employment matters (HJR 8).

The other four, which Rep. Becker deemed more "ancillary in nature," would: prevent public authorities from requiring prevailing rate of wages (HJR 9), forbid certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts (HJR 10), subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative (HJR 11), and prohibit dues and other fees from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee (HJR 12).

Unions and Democrats are already pushing back against the resolutions, saying Ohioans already voiced their opinions on the matter by repealing a 2011 law that limited collective bargaining for public employees (SB5, 129th General Assembly).

"Instead of restrictions to make working people poorer and less safe on the job, we should prioritize commonsense ideas that grow our economy and create good-paying jobs that give working families the opportunity to get ahead," Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) said. "The Republican package of so-called 'right to work' legislation is wrong for working families and wrong for Ohio."

But Rep. Becker said there is "very little to almost nothing" in their new plans that overlaps with the contents of SB5 - an argument AFL-CIO President Tim Burga isn't buying. Mr. Burga said both SB5 and the current proposals are politically-motivated attempts to enact "anti-worker, anti-union" laws.

"You're picking a fight for political reasons at a time when Ohioans can least afford these sorts of unnecessary distractions," Mr. Burga said. "If they've not learned a lesson from SB5 I don't know what it's going to take to wake them up. But I am confident the General Assembly is not interested in introducing proposals that simply are going to take away workers' voices and drive down wages, which is what these things do when you look at them where they've been implemented in other states."

As far as driving down workers' wages, Rep. Riedel insists the opposite; he said his rationale behind the legislation is that it will assist the impoverished in his district by enabling them to keep more of their earnings.

"This is not an affront to unions, this is not an affront to collective bargaining," the sponsor said. "This is all about workers' rights and workers' freedom and being able to choose whether they want to be part of a union and worry about paying fair share fees."

Rep. Becker said that should the resolutions pass the General Assembly he's already envisioning a public campaign from opponents seeking to derail the ballot initiatives. He anticipates the campaign will play out like efforts to repeal the 2011 law.

"At least we'll know what to expect this time," Rep. Becker said.

We Are Ohio, a group that formed in 2011 to oppose SB5, issued a statement denouncing the resolutions as "the Dirty Half Dozen."

"Reps. Riedel and Becker are carrying water for out-of-state interests like the Koch brothers and the American Legislative Exchange Council," the group said. "There are no workers lining up behind these dangerous, divisive and disastrous ideas for Ohioans. Right to Work is wrong for Ohio. Don't trust it."

Rep. Becker said fellow Republicans have shared concerns that the proposals' potential place on the 2020 ballot might drive more Democratic voters to the polls in an important presidential election year.

Rep. Becker said he doesn't adhere to that line of thinking and instead believes Republicans will be more motivated to turn out to the polls compared to Democrats who are already typically mobilized for presidential elections.

Rep. Riedel added that the sponsors feel they need more time to educate the public on their propositions than they would have if they targeted the 2018 ballot.

But there is one concern that could have merit, Rep. Becker acknowledged, and that's whether the private sector right-to-work resolution flies in the face of federal employment law. In talking with the Legislative Service Commission, he said, the answer to that question has remained unresolved.

"Is it a violation of federal labor law?" Rep. Becker asked. "It could be. It's not clear whether it is or isn't."

Health Plans Raise Privacy Concerns With Claims Information Bill

Health insurers and a patient advocacy group urged lawmakers Tuesday not to move forward with a proposal to give small employers access to certain health claims data, saying it could jeopardize employee privacy.

The groups testified against the bill ([SB 227](#)) before the Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee.

The bill is designed to help small businesses make better decisions in buying insurance by giving them aggregate, de-identified information about claims made under their plans.

Miranda Motter, president and CEO of the Ohio Association of Health Plans, opposed the measure, saying it would require plans to disclose protected claims information to small employers.

The disclosures could allow employers to identify specific employees for whom the claims data relates, she said. The bill requires the disclosure of all potential catastrophic diagnoses and prognoses involving persons covered under the policy.

"Small employers with fully insured plans are generally not entitled to know about the medical diagnoses, prognoses, and treatment of employees, which is personal in nature, without the employee's consent and providing claims data to small employers raises privacy concerns for employees," she said.

Smaller employers are much more able to associate claims data with specific employees than large employers, Ms. Motter said.

Federal health privacy laws have strict requirements regarding when protected health information can be shared with employers, who are not directly regulated by HIPAA, she said.

"Given that employers are not directly subject to HIPAA, sharing health information with employers creates substantial privacy risks," she said. "In fact, these substantial risks are exactly why HIPAA created significant barriers to sharing PHI with employers."

Small group plans are also priced based on demographic factors, not claims data, meaning they don't need claims data in order to purchase and maintain coverage, Ms. Motter said.

OAHF is working with other stakeholder groups to develop policies aimed at reducing the cost of health care, and Ms. Motter urged the committee not to move forward with the bill yet.

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) asked why the line between small and large employers was set at 50.

"The larger the employee group, the harder it becomes to re-identify, even in a de-identified way, the employee affected," Ms. Motter said.

Small employers could benefit from being able to compete directly against larger businesses in that market, Sen. Wilson said.

If health insurance costs are increasing, it's because the underlying cost of care is high, Ms. Motter said.

"Part of what our effort has been is if we're going to see insurance costs go down, we have to get at the underlying cost of health care," she said.

Holly Pendell, with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, raised concerns that the bill would allow small businesses to identify employees with MS.

"Protecting against discrimination in employment and many other aspects of American life has been a core component of the education and understanding that the MS Society has promoted since our establishment," she said.

"I urge you to err on the side of the consumer today and of the protections given to them by law," she added. "We must not tip the balance away from comprehensive benefits and medical privacy protections and return to era where employees live in fear of being outed due to their medical diagnosis."

Senate Democrats Scrutinize SNAP Fraud Bill

Democrats questioned a bill intended to reduce fraud in the food stamp program by requiring photos on benefit cards as the measure had its first hearing in the Senate Tuesday.

The sponsor of the bill (HB 50) told the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee that it wouldn't reduce benefits, but would deter recipients from selling or trading cards.

Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) said the bill is designed to protect the integrity of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, deter trafficking in SNAP cards and preserve funds for those in need.

The bill stems from an audit of the SNAP program by State Auditor Dave Yost that found weaknesses. Those included excessive balances in accounts, unusual transactions, 36 deceased recipients and more than \$28.7 million in out-of-state spending.

The measure would require that photos be added to EBT SNAP cards, safeguarding benefits of those who are legally entitled to them and deterring and detecting crime where cards are sold or traded, Rep. Schaffer said.

"SNAP is an important safety net for those in Ohio who have fallen on rough times, and I believe that a vast majority of individuals enrolled in the program need the benefits," he said. "As lawmakers, we have a responsibility to assure program integrity."

The bill includes exemptions to the photo requirement for adults 60 and older, blind and disabled citizens, victims of domestic violence or people with a religious objection to being photographed.

Retailers would not be required to check the photo ID at check-out, nor would they be allowed to hinder or prevent anyone's purchase because of the photo ID. Retailers would be able to call a phone number to report suspected fraud.

The bill also includes an opt-in provision for any adults exempted from the photo requirement who wish to have a photo on their cards, and allows the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to share photos on file. Both of those provisions were added in committee in the House.

Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) said she was confused about the need for the bill. She asked about the provision that would prevent clerks from interfering with transactions.

The sponsor said the presence of a photo would deter people from trading or selling the cards, and that it would make it easier for drug investigators who find stacks of EBT cards at drug houses.

"This is just another layer of security," he said. "Frankly, this is not going to be a cure-all bill to solve all fraud. But it'll be a big deterrent and it'll cut a big hole in the crime that's going on."

Sen. Brown asked why the presence of names on EBT cards doesn't deter sales or trading.

Rep. Schaffer said he believed photos would provide additional deterrents.

Sen. Brown said law enforcement officers can already track EBT cards back to their owners if they are found.

"If we want to try to curtail misuse of these cards, I'm willing to work with anyone who wants to curtail it, but putting a photo on it is not the way to do it," she said.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) said the bill implies that people whose cards are found in the possession of drug dealers are involved in drugs or are selling them.

"That is not evidence that that person is involved in drugs," she said. "There are many cards that are stolen out of mailboxes. There are many drugs that are stolen out of purses, or out of cars. They're stolen or they're lost."

Rep. Schaffer said the vast majority of beneficiaries need the program, and he wouldn't support a bill that curtailed benefits to people who need help. The bill is designed to address the issue of fraud and ensure benefits are going to the right people, he said.

Sen. Tavares said many retail grocers are moving away from clerks and toward self-serve kiosks, where nobody will look at cards.

"How do you justify continuing when movement is to do away with clerks in our retail chains?" she asked.

The sponsor said clerks don't have a role unless they suspect fraud.

"It's a lot about deterrent," he said.

Telecom Update Would Drive Investment, Industry Group Says

The Ohio Telecom Association and its members on Tuesday told a panel of lawmakers that Ohio is overdue for a comprehensive update of telecom laws.

Their testimony, delivered before the House Public Utilities Committee, centered on a bill ([HB 402](#)) from [Rep. Brian Hill](#) (R-Zanesville) that aims to boost the competitiveness of local telephone providers. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, November 13, 2017](#))

The bill's major change would enable carriers to pursue from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio rate increases of \$1.25 a month or 20% depending on which is higher. Currently, those providers in competitive areas can seek increases of only \$1.25 a month.

OTA President Charles Moses described the sector as a "dynamic industry that continues to change every day" - a description spelled out in a 2017 study released by the group that prompted the bill. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, October 20, 2017](#))

"In this type of environment, it is hard for laws and regulations to keep up," Mr. Moses said. "Traditionally, Ohio has been a leader in progressive telecom policy. However, it has been eight years since the last major update to Ohio's telecommunications laws took place."

The Ohio Consumers' Counsel, however, has already called for the bill to be rejected, arguing it would "favor telephone companies against the interest of Ohio consumers, including by allowing 20% annual increases for basic phone service."

The proponents, in turn, argued that companies are incentivized not to raise rates too high because customers will simply seek out other service providers.

"No one is interested in losing customers," OTA General Counsel Scott Elisar told lawmakers.

[Rep. John Rogers](#) (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) questioned how much this might cost consumers. Mr. Elisar provided a few specific companies as examples, saying on average it would amount to a few dollars a year.

Mr. Elisar called the bill "an effort to update old laws, modernize state policy, and level the playing field for all providers in response to explosive competition we've seen in the past decade."

The OTA suggested the bill would: provide additional pricing and regulatory flexibility, mirror Ohio law with federal guidelines, and "clean-up" items from the prior legislative overhaul ([SB 162](#), 128th General Assembly).

Specific policy updates included in the bill, according to Mr. Elisar, include:

- Updating the state's policy statement to recognize emergence of competition and market forces.
- Expanding 911 immunity to include corporate parents and affiliates.
- Eliminating treble damages remedy against telephone companies while ensuring telephone companies remain liable for actual damages.
- Providing that no provision of the bill affects existing contractual obligations or rights under federal law or rules.

Josh Motzer, public policy director for CenturyLink, said the bill will provide a "pathway for future technology investments here in the state."

And Bruce Mottern, chairman of the Rural Broadband Association, said it's critical to eliminate competitive advantages among certain carriers. The bill, he said, would clear regulatory burdens from rural providers in order to better meet customer demands.

In addition to the \$1.25 or 20% increase, Mr. Mottern said, the bill will enable small local exchange companies to increase rates by any amount necessary to meet federal benchmarks. In that case, the PUCO could enact a three-year phase-in to lessen consumer impact, he said.

"This flexibility allows companies to manage their businesses based on operational, financial and competitive needs," he said. "There are plenty of alternative voice service providers in Ohio; the last thing a company wants to do is lose a valued customer."

Groups Call For More Specificity On Bail Assessment Tools

A bill designed to drastically overhaul the bail system in Ohio needs more work, members of the House Criminal Justice Committee were told Tuesday.

Representatives from the ACLU of Ohio and the Office of the Ohio Public Defender suggested several changes to the legislation ([HB 439](#)) requiring the Criminal Sentencing Commission to create a list of validated risk-assessment tools to be used by courts across the state in making decisions on bail.

But Niki Clum, legislative liaison for OPD, said not all risk-assessment tools are created equal.

She said Lucas County's use of the "Arnold Tool" has doubled the number of individuals released without monetary bail while also reducing pretrial crime and the number of individuals who fail to appear in court.

"Under the current language of the bill, the Sentencing Commission is not required to examine the risk-assessment tools and determine which are best," Ms. Clum said. "They are only required to provide a list of those that are validated. OPD is concerned that some risk assessment tools may contain implicitly biased questions that result in disproportionate outcomes based on race, ethnicity or gender."

Ms. Clum also called for the bill to require courts to set the least restrictive bail conditions and use monetary bail as a last resort.

Gary Daniels, chief lobbyist for the ACLU of Ohio, echoed those sentiments. He also called for the measure to eliminate monetary bail for all misdemeanor charges and some felony charges and for requiring the collection of race-based data.

"By tracking race of the accused, stakeholders can help determine where in Ohio, and by how much, Ohio's bail system and the changes HB439 creates, affects people of color," he said. "Flaws can also then be addressed and successes can be expanded. Collecting race data throughout Ohio's justice system is already severely lacking. With HB439, we can make progress in one aspect."

But Ms. Clum and Mr. Daniels said that, minus any changes, the bill is still an improvement over the current system. Both testified as interested parties.

Daniel Dew, legal fellow at the Buckeye Institute, warned in interested party testimony that the \$2 billion per year bail bond industry will likely push back against the bill.

"How pretrial detention decisions are made is left to the state," he said. "The goal of a pretrial system should be to release as many defendants as safely as possible before trial, and for defendants to show up for court."

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) questioned how much an ability to pay should be weighed in bail decisions.

Mr. Dew said that is just one factor to be taken into consideration. He said under current law, courts will set an extremely high bail for individuals deemed to be dangerous with the hope that they cannot pay.

"Not only does this make it more fair, it takes judges and prosecutors out of the position of asking for a \$2 million bail knowing somebody isn't going to make it," he said.

Rep. Seitz also questioned how effective the risk-assessment tools are in lowering failure to appear rates.

Mr. Dew said in every study he has read the rate has been the same or lower.

Sara Andrews, director of the Criminal Sentencing Commission, said the bill reflects the recommendations of an Ad Hoc Committee on Bail and Pretrial Services that was formed in 2016.

"Those recommendations are designed to be holistic and focus on achieving consistency, fairness and efficiency in the pretrial system while decreasing the reliance on monetary bail," she said in proponent testimony. "As such, the use of a validated risk assessment instrument to inform release or detain decisions - realizing that bond should be 'risk' based and not 'charge' based - is recommended. The use of a risk assessment tool is one more resource a judge can use to inform decisions and ensure equity in all steps of the bail-setting process."

Rep. Seitz raised several concerns with the bill, including what he called an "impenetrable black box" in the form of the "Arnold Tool" used in Lucas County.

Ms. Andrew said that may have been the case at one time, but that has since changed. "I believe that it is more accessible and publicly available," she said.

The panel also received proponent testimony from FreedomWorks and the American Conservative Union Foundation.

Patrick Plein, a policy analyst at the ACUF's Center for Criminal Justice Reform, said studies have found that the likelihood of being rearrested or recidivating increases when an individual is held in pretrial confinement.

"The impact of this worrisome trend goes far beyond any one defendant," he wrote. "Anything that encourages recidivism means another crime, which is another victim, another prosecution, and another cost to be borne by the public. The current system in Ohio does just that. As a result, Ohioans are paying more in taxes for less public safety, because of the current approach to bail."

Parma Municipal Court Judge Kenneth Spanagel also provided written interested party testimony in which he urged the panel to move the bill.

ECOT Appeals Closure, Says Founder Will Waive Fees To Prevent Budget Shortfall

The Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow is appealing the decision that shut it down, saying it could remain fiscally stable through the end of the school year by no longer paying management and learning platform fees.

The e-school's sponsor, Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West, voted last week to suspend operations of the school amid financial concerns.

ECOT is strapped for cash because it's repaying the state for \$80 million in overpayments tied to attendance audit findings, which are being disputed in a lawsuit pending before the Ohio Supreme Court.

In its latest appeal, ECOT said its founder Bill Lager, who owns the management company and learning platform used by the school, has agreed to forgo payment for the rest of the year to allow the school to reopen and finish out the academic year in the black.

Also part of the deal is continued monthly repayments to the state and an agreement that an interim master could be appointed by a court to oversee ECOT operations through the end of the school year.

"This is truly the best option for the thousands of ECOT families who have been grappling with this devastating news that their school would be closing its doors mid-year," ECOT spokesman Neil Clark said. "This plan effectively gives supervision of the school to a court-appointed master to ensure the school continues out its mission for a few more months while we wait for a favorable response from the Ohio Supreme Court."

Mr. Clark also took a shot at the Department of Education, which rejected a similar deal immediately prior to the sponsor's vote to shut down the school last week. That proposal also promised that ECOT wouldn't file any future lawsuits against the agency regarding attendance audits.

"Bill Lager suspending his fees through June shows another attempt to keep ECOT alive. It is unfathomable that the powers at be at ODE and the Governor's office aren't protecting ECOT students and families," he said.

ODE Spokeswoman Brittany Halpin defended the agency's handling of the situation, saying that it has attempted to work with ECOT for the last two years to resolve issues related to overpayment and full-time attendance audits.

It has become clear in that time, she said, the school and its backers have never intended to accurately report student participation, which determines funding.

A hearing officer this week confirmed the latest audit report findings that show the school over reported the number of full-time students again last school year. The State Board of Education is expected to vote to approve that report, which cites \$20 million in overpayments, at its February meeting.

"Based on their actions, the department has no confidence that ECOT intends to follow the law. We're disappointed that ECOT and its for-profit vendors, IQ Innovations and Altair Learning Management, continue to prioritize their monetary gain over the best interests of 12,000 students," Ms. Halpin said in a statement.

However, lawmakers on Tuesday also called on the state to step in to keep ECOT open until June, giving students and teachers time to evaluate their options for moving on to a new school next year.

They stressed that every day the school is closed, 12,000 students - including more than 2,200 seniors who were on track to graduate this spring - are falling farther behind in their schooling.

"It would be ideal if we could finish the school year," Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta) said during a Statehouse news conference.

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell), chairman of the House Education and Career Readiness Committee, said there's also concerns about ECOT teachers who will have difficulty finding work mid-year.

Like Mr. Clark, he said ODE could have prevented the midyear closure of the school by setting up a different repayment plan.

"While it's not the department's responsibility to close the school but that of the school sponsor, the department created the environment that caused the school to close midyear," Rep. Brenner said. "This is not to say that ECOT wasn't responsible for their actions, but the midyear closing could have been mitigated or prevented."

Rep. Brenner said he's working on legislation that would "prevent this from happening again."

The potential bills could prohibit the department from setting retroactive rules and require it to use forensic accounting and other options for determining whether students were active in learning opportunities when log-in records can't be produced, he said.

He said he'd also like to ensure that schools don't close in the middle of the year and ODE has firm plans in place to assist displaced students and teachers when schools do shut down.

"Every day that they're not in school is another day that they're not able to learn and be able to go and potentially this graduate...or go on to the next school year," Rep. Brenner said of currently displaced ECOT students.

ECOT Assistant Principal Laura Beth McNamara said the school could resume operations immediately if the sponsor accepts the deal brought forward Tuesday.

"The student accounts are still there, most of them still have their equipment. We haven't had a chance to gather up 12,000 computers yet," she said.

She and the Ohio Christian Alliance have reached out to Gov. John Kasich and asked him to intervene and press the sponsor and ODE to consider options to keep ECOT open for the remainder of the school year.

"There is a way forward," OCA President Chris Long said before delivering his letter to the governor's office.

The governor told reporters last week that it wouldn't be appropriate for him to advise ODE on how to respond to the situation.

The superintendent of public instruction, who leads the agency, is not in the governor's cabinet and is instead hired by the State Board of Education to serve independently of the administration.

"It is up to them to manage this, to have a situation where if the sponsor pulls (its support)...that they're prepared to be able to absorb these students," Gov. Kasich said at the time. "We've told them that on a regular basis without getting in the middle of negotiations. We don't believe it's our job to do that. It's not appropriate."

High Court Sides With Arrestee In Dispute Over Purse Search

The Ohio Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled the warrantless search of a woman's purse was unconstitutional.

Writing for the majority, Justice Bill O'Neill found that the search, which turned up drugs, was not justifiable.

The case stems from the 2014 arrest of Jamie Banks-Harvey in Warren County after she was stopped by an Ohio State Highway Patrol officer and was found to have outstanding warrants on drug charges out of Montgomery County, the high court's media arm reported.

After she was detained and placed in a cruiser, the patrolman removed her purse from the vehicle she was driving, searched it and found drugs. Ms. Banks-Harvey was charged with felony possession of drugs and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

She pleaded no contest to both charges after an unsuccessful attempt to suppress the evidence. She was sentenced to three years community control.

She appealed the trial court's decision not to suppress the evidence to the Twelfth District Court of Appeals, which upheld the ruling on the grounds that the OSHP has a policy of inventorying the belongings of an arrested person.

But Justice O'Neill found that both courts erred in their decisions.

"The question in this case is not whether the purse was taken from the car pursuant to a standardized law-enforcement policy, but whether such a policy was sufficient justification for the warrantless retrieval of the purse from the car," he wrote. "We conclude that it was not and therefore that the subsequent search of the purse did not qualify as a valid inventory search, because the purse had not lawfully come into the custody of the police."

He was joined in his decision by Justice Judith French and Justice Patrick Fischer. Justice Sharon Kennedy concurred in judgement only.

In her written opinion, Justice Kennedy noted that a local police officer showed up at the scene to take Ms. Banks-Harvey into custody.

"Even when a standardized procedure or policy permits an inventory search of an arrested person's effects incident to incarceration, it is unreasonable, within the context of the Fourth Amendment, for a law-enforcement officer to execute that inventory search when he is not taking the arrested person to a station house for booking and incarceration," she wrote.

"Moreover, it is unreasonable, within the context of the Fourth Amendment, for a law-enforcement procedure or policy to give an officer discretionary authority to take personal effects that are not in an arrestee's possession at the time of arrest and are safely secured be retrieved and taken to the station house, where they will be subject to an inventory search."

In a dissenting opinion joined by Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, Justice Patrick DeWine found the search to be lawful.

"Here, despite the attempts to cast aspersions on the trooper's motivation, there is no evidence that the trooper's primary purpose was other than to secure the purse so that it could accompany Banks-Harvey to the station," he wrote. "That he was also on the lookout for illegal items does not render the inventory search unreasonable."

Justice Terrence O'Donnell also dissented, finding the case was improvidently allowed, saying "the Ohio State Highway Patrol policy is not in evidence, the case is factually specific, and no general rule of law can be formulated from its resolution."

Ohio Business: P&G Reports Sales Increase; Banks Report Year-End Financial Results...

Procter & Gamble saw net sales of \$17.4 billion in the second quarter, up by 3% from the previous year.

Organic sales were integral in the gain, increasing by 2% in the quarter ended Dec. 31, P&G reported. Diluted net earnings for all sales were \$0.83, a decline of 68% compared to the prior year due to a divestiture gain in the base period and a current period net income tax charge related to a federal tax package.

Operating cash flow was \$3.7 billion for the quarter, while adjusted free cash flow productivity was 91%, the Cincinnati-based company said. It returned \$3.6 billion of cash to shareholders via \$1.8 billion of dividend payments and \$1.8 billion of common stock repurchase.

"We accelerated organic sales growth and delivered strong productivity cost savings and cash flow," Chairman, President and CEO David Taylor said in a statement. "We remain on track to achieve our fiscal year objectives."

Huntington: The Columbus-based company saw a 67% increase in net income, which came in at \$1.2 billion for 2017. Earnings per common share for the year were \$1, up 43% from the prior year.

Return on average assets for year ended Dec. 31 was 1.17%, while return on average tangible common equity was 15.7%, the bank reported. Total revenue increased 22% compared to the previous year.

The results exclude about \$152 million pretax of FirstMerit acquisition-related expenses, or \$0.09 per common share after tax, and an estimated tax benefit of \$123 million, or \$0.11 per common share, related to federal tax reforms enacted in December.

"We achieved our long-term financial goals for Return on Tangible Common Equity and Efficiency Ratio on a GAAP basis for the first time," chairman, president and CEO Steve Steinour said of the final quarter of the year. "In fact, during the fourth quarter, we achieved all five of our long-term financial goals. In addition, we recently began the strategic planning process that later this year will yield new long-term financial goals for the company."

Community Investors Bancorp: The parent company of First Federal Community Bank of Bucyrus reported net earnings of \$561,000, or \$0.71 per share for the second half of 2017. The total represents a \$45.3% increase from the same period in 2016.

Total assets as of Dec. 31 were \$145 million, which is an increase of \$1.6 million from June 30, the company announced. Meanwhile, investments increased by \$500,000 and the allowance for loan loss increased by \$135,000.

First Financial: For the three months ended Dec. 31, the company reported net income of \$24.8 million, or \$0.40 per common share, which is unchanged from the previous quarter.

Return on average assets for the fourth quarter was 1.13% while return on average tangible common equity was 13.85%.

In 2017, the company had earnings per diluted share of \$1.56 compared to \$1.43 for 2016, it reported.

Peoples Bancorp: The company posted a record full-year net income of \$38.5 million, or \$2.10 per diluted share. In the fourth quarter, the company reported net income of \$9 million, or \$0.49 per share.

"Earnings per diluted common share for the full year of 2017 were positively impacted by \$0.10 due to gains on sales of bank equity investment securities, and negatively impacted by \$0.02 due to non-core charges and \$0.05 due to the recently enacted Tax Cuts and Jobs Act," according to a company release.

Arts Award: Heartland Bank and the J.M. Smucker Company are set to be recognized at the 2018 Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio ceremony in May.

They're among nine winners of the governor's awards for supporting the arts. Heartland Bank is to be recognized in the category of small businesses that support the arts and Smucker's will take home the award as a large company that supports the arts.

"The 2018 Governor's Awards winners are true innovators and leaders in their communities. They exemplify Ohio's creative and forward-thinking spirit. On behalf of the Ohio Arts Council, I congratulate this year's group of individuals, organizations, and businesses on earning our state's most prestigious artistic and cultural achievement," said Donna S. Collins, executive director of the Ohio Arts Council.

Gongwer Unveils Text Alerts for Bill Tracking, Breaking News, Other Messages

Gongwer News Service today launched new services that allow subscribers to receive bill tracking alerts, breaking news updates and other key Gongwer products via text message.

To activate text alerts, subscribers should log in to their accounts, click on their name in the banner and select Update Profile. Next, enter your mobile number and carrier, and select the alerts and messages you want to receive via text. Once your preferences have been set, click the Update button at the bottom of the box.

The system allows subscribers to request text notifications regarding the publication of the Gongwer *Ohio Report*, breaking news updates, media clips and legislative floor reports. Subscribers can also request real-time bill tracking alerts or a daily summary of activities on all bills that are being tracked.

Alert preferences can be changed at any time.

Due to limitations on the size of text messages, all text-based alerts will include a summary of the message received and a link to the full content of the message.

The new services are available to subscribers at no additional cost.

All Gongwer accounts include access to the leading bill tracking system that offers real-time alerts on legislation of interest. Subscribers can track by bill number, keyword, sponsor and Revised Code section and can also receive alerts based on legislative activity, committee scheduling and subject area. All bill tracking features, which include customizable bill status reports that can be shared with members and clients, are available on Gongwer's [Bill Tracking page](#).

For questions about Gongwer bill tracking services, contact Gongwer at gongwer@gongwer-oh.com or 614.221.1992.

Governor's Appointments

State Speech and Hearing Professionals Board: Lisa A. Froehlich, PhD of Lebanon for a term beginning January 23, 2018, and ending March 22, 2020.

State Board of Cosmetology: Jessica Price-Kovach of Galloway for a term beginning January 23, 2018, and ending October 31, 2021.

Cuyahoga Community College Board of Trustees: Andrew E. Randall of Cleveland for a term beginning January 23, 2018, and ending October 12, 2022.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, January 24

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) and Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) and Ohio Pharmacists' Association news conference on prescription drug legislation, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 15

Kevin Bacon (R-Candidate 12th Congressional District) fundraiser, Onda, Labuhn, Rankin & Boggs, 35 N. Fourth St., Suite 100, Columbus, 5 p.m., (RSVP to laura.bates.oh@gmail.com or 586.610.1040)

Wednesday, February 21

Ohio Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs' Statehouse Reception, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 4:30 p.m.

Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Citizens for Richard Brown. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

Thursday, February 22

Kevin Bacon (R-Candidate 12th Congressional District) fundraiser, Medallion Club, 5000 Club Dr., Westerville, 6:30 p.m., (RSVP to laura.bates.oh@gmail.com or 586.610.1040)

Tuesday, February 27

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Farm Bureau Ag Day at the Capital, Sheraton Hotel, 75 E. State Street, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, March 7

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) & Rep. Michael O'Brien (D-Warren) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Michael Sheehy and Committee to Elect Michael O'Brien. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

Tuesday, March 13

House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) fundraiser, The Walrus, 143 E. Main St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor \$2,500, Host \$1,000, Guest \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Fred Strahorn. RSVP with Amy Katrak at 614-420-1269 or akatrak@ohiodems.org)

Wednesday, March 21

Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Friends of Tavia Galonski. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

Wednesday, April 11

Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Kent for Ohio. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)


Tuesday, May 15

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-429-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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7/23/2018

Gmail - Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, January 24



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latourism@gmail.com>

Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, January 24

1 message

Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com>
To: sml@sarahlatourette.com

Wed, Jan 24, 2018 at 8:26 AM

MEDIA CLIPS

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NEWS

[Groups rally to fight Ohio senator's rival redistricting plan \(Associated Press, 1/24/2018\)](#)

[Lawyers to Ohio court: Juries, not judges, should impose death sentences \(Associated Press, 1/24/2018\)](#)

[Lawmakers ax money proposed for film campus, Wasson Way in list to GOP leaders \(Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/24/2018\)](#)

['Right to work' could be on the ballot in Ohio with support from lawmakers \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018\)](#)

[Ohio among northern states to lose another U.S. House seat after next census - Out of Line: Impact 2017 and Beyond \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018\)](#)

Should ECOT founder pay money back faster? State Auditor Dave Yost says yes while school floats new plan (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018)

Columbus lawmaker's proposal would allow physician-assisted suicide in Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Democrats tussle over ECOT campaign money, but GOP got far more (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Ex-Tiberi aide to join DeWine's staff (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Lawmakers take baby steps toward redistricting compromise (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Portman says killing NAFTA would be mistake (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

Right-to-work would help Ohio workers, GOP lawmakers say (Columbus Dispatch, 1/24/2018)

'On its last legs': Why election boards are seeking new voting machines (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Doctor-assisted suicide bill coming to Ohio Statehouse (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Ohio looking to change bail system, focusing less on money (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Portman warns Trump: killing NAFTA will kill jobs in Ohio (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

State considers punishing cities that use traffic, red-light cameras (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Thousands head back to work at Wright-Patt as shutdown ends (Dayton Daily News, 1/24/2018)

Lawmakers argue ECOT closing preventable (Toledo Blade, 1/24/2018)

EDITORIALS

A fleeting moment of compromise ends the government shutdown despite "No" votes from three Ohio Democrats: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/24/2018)

Scientists leading algae fight (Toledo Blade, 1/24/2018)

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Gmail - Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, January 25



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, January 25

1 message

Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com>
To: sml@sarahlatourette.com

Thu, Jan 25, 2018 at 8:55 AM

MEDIA CLIPS

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News Bill Tracking Legislation

NEWS

Ohio Supreme Court sides with FirstEnergy in customer refund ruling (Akron Beacon Journal, 1/25/2018)

GOP gov race: No one wants Kasich's endorsement (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/25/2018)

In Ohio, lives altered a year into Trump (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/25/2018)

Ohio PAC supporting Ohio women candidates raises \$750,000 (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Powerful opioids are easily sold through the Internet and shipped in the mail, investigation finds (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Talk it out: Should Ohio become a 'right to work' state? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Campaign cash: Who got how much from ECOT (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Cordray wants to bring fight for consumers to Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Kasich disputes Taylor's assertion they haven't talked in a year (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

No redistricting vote without citizens coalition support, Senate president says (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio lawmakers going after pharmacy benefit managers (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

State lawmakers vote to regulate "e-bikes" (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio's tobacco prevention efforts get mostly Fs (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Riding a skateboard while holding a car could become illegal in Ohio (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

State considers punishing cities that use traffic, red-light cameras (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Tool will allow the public to follow the money in Ohio politics (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

High court: State's FirstEnergy refund order was improper (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

Vote delayed on GOP remap plan (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: CHIP breaks free from D.C. gridlock (Canton Repository,
1/25/2018)

Editorial: Ohioans want real redistricting reform (Columbus Dispatch,
1/25/2018)

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Your ALEC Digital Exchange 1/18/2018

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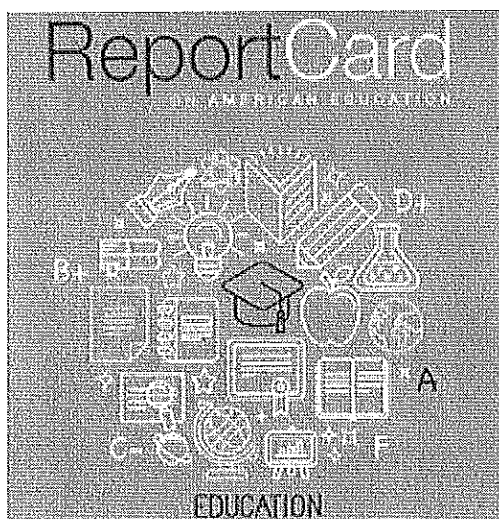


ALEC Digital Exchange: January 18, 2018

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Publication Release**ALEC Releases 22nd Edition of the *Report Card on American Education***

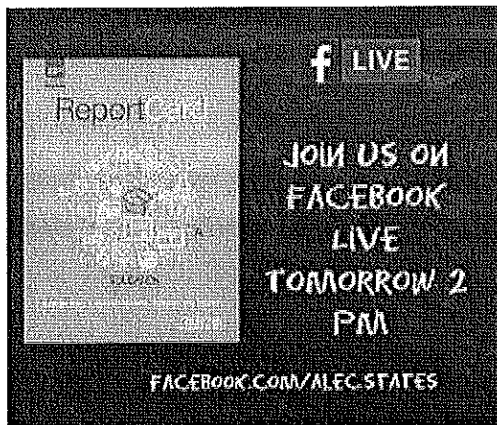
The American Legislative Exchange Council released the 22nd Edition of the Report Card on American Education in conjunction with National School Choice Week. The report highlights the successes and failures of the American education system graded across six categories. A focus of this report is the availability of school choice options in the states. "Allowing every student to find the right educational fit should be at the top of every citizen's priority list," said report author Inez Stepman.

[Read Report](#)

ALEC In Action**National School Choice Week and ALEC**

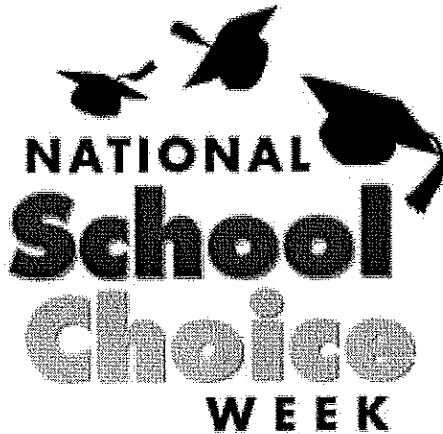
The ALEC Education and Workforce Development Task Force is excited to bring education policy to you with a number of events and activities in conjunction with National School Choice Week:

- ALEC will be hosting a Facebook Live Interview with Task Force Director Inez Feltscher Stepman on **Thursday, January 25 at 2PM**. Visit the ALEC Facebook page to tune in and ask questions.



- Ms. Stepman also spoke at a Heritage Foundation breakfast on Thursday, January 25 to introduce the ALEC-Heritage Education Freedom Ranking.
- Ms. Stepman was in Charleston, West Virginia on Tuesday with WV Senator Patricia Rucker discussing education policy and school choice with a number of experts and policymakers.

[Go to Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ALECSTATES)



Report Card on American Education Website

Does Your State Make the Grade?



The Report Card on American Education website is a great resource to see where your state ranks against others. Run a side by side comparison or generate custom report cards to see how adjustments can affect state rankings. Visit www.alecreportcard.org to check it out.

[Visit Website](http://www.alecreportcard.org)

School Choice Week in 140 Characters

Tweet Your Support For School Choice Week: Click Below



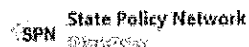
Education savings accounts are a bold endeavor in #schoolchoice TPR experienced their impact firsthand in October -



Annual Meeting 2017 Session Recaps | K-12 Education | Th...
philanthropyroundtable.org

7:18 PM - 24 Jan 2018

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Arizona is transforming kids' lives through Empowerment Scholarship Accounts.
spn.org/arizona univer ... #SchoolChoice

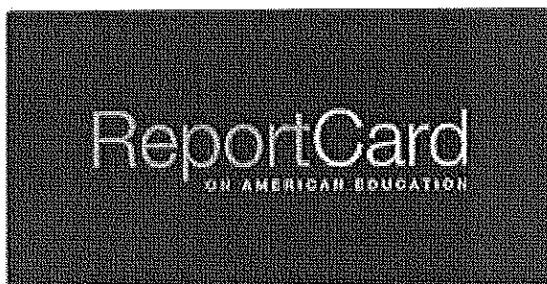


Arizona Makes History with Nation's First Universal Private ...
Arizona's Universal Private School Choice Program helps more than 3,000 Arizona students excel in an academic setting that meets their needs.

7:53 PM - 24 Jan 2018



Learn why New York recieved a "C" on @ALEC_states Report Card on American Education: alecreportcard.org #SchoolChoice #SchoolChoiceWeek



Education Report Card
Report Card on American Education: K-12 Performance, Progress and Reform
alecreportcard.org

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Does your state give you a choice when it comes to choosing your child's education? #schoolchoice youtube.com/watch?v=kXa0bX...
Read more:



The Pernicious Myth of the Underfunded American Education System

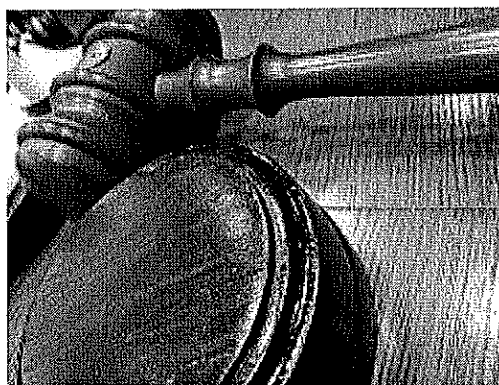
The myth that education is underfunded in the United States, which partly explains higher rates of low achievement, is a dangerous and misleading one. It is a myth that has been used to justify a wide range of policies that have done little to improve education. In fact, the data shows that the United States spends more on education than any other country in the world, and that the quality of education is higher than in most other countries.

The Pernicious Myth of the Underfunded American Education System
The myth that education is underfunded in the United States, which partly explains higher rates of low achievement, is a dangerous and misleading one. It is a myth that has been used to justify a wide range of policies that have done little to improve education. In fact, the data shows that the United States spends more on education than any other country in the world, and that the quality of education is higher than in most other countries.

7:58 PM - 24 Jan 2018

Model Policy Update

SNPS Model Policy Finalized



Model Policy that was passed at the 2017 States and Nation Policy Summit has been finalized. The final versions of these model policies are available on www.alec.org.

[View Model Policy](#)



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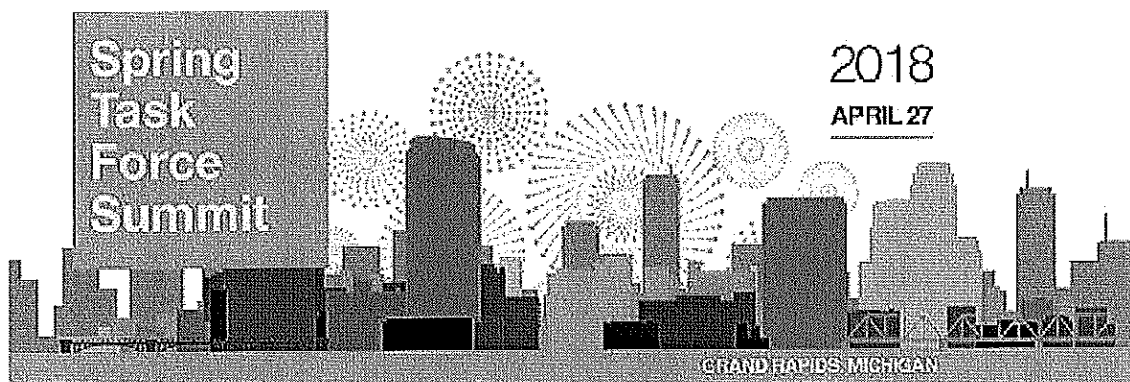
Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

ALEC Registration Now Open

1 message

Lisa B. Nelson <lisanelson@alec.org>
Reply-To: CCook@alec.org
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Fri, Jan 26, 2018 at 3:32 PM



Dear Friends -

2018 marks the ALEC 45th anniversary, and what better way to recognize the important role of ALEC than to participate in the first meeting of our 45th year--the Spring Task Force Summit. Registration is now open for the **2018 Spring Task Force Summit** taking place in **Grand Rapids, Michigan** on **April 26, 2018**.

As I have said before, it is a great time to be at ALEC and NOW is the time for you to bring your friends and colleagues. ALEC is where the action is; where debate happens, and where ideas are tested. To help make it easier for you and others to attend the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit, we are offering a **20% discount** on registration prices for the **next 7 days**.

Register now and use the code **STFS18-20percent** at check out to take advantage of the discount.

I hope you will join us in Grand Rapids for what is sure to be a great day of policy discussion and debate. Start the year off right and register now!

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer
American Legislative Exchange Council



Registration is now open for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit

Don't forget to use the discount code below to receive 20% off the registration cost.

STFS18-20percent

Register Now



Make your reservation today at the Amway Grand Plaza

While in Grand Rapids, discover the historic charm of the Amway Grand Plaza.

Book now through April 6, 2018* at the ALEC rate of \$179 per night.

**based on availability*

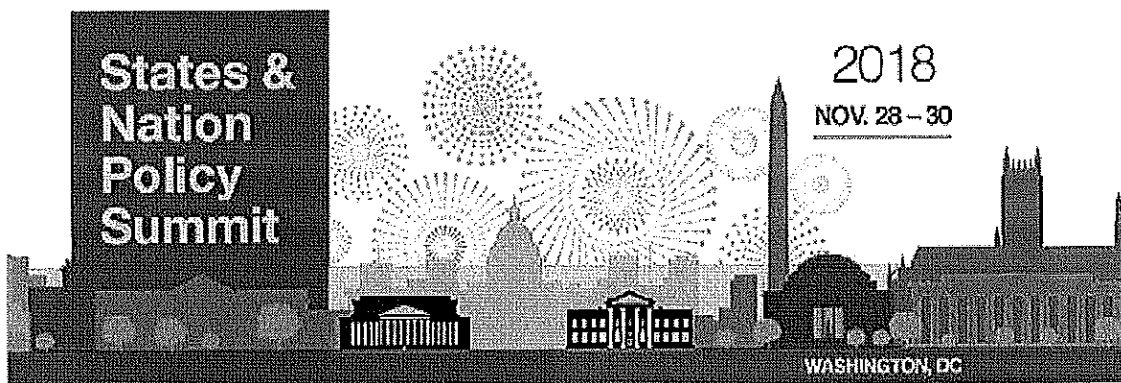
Book Now

Save-the-Date



ALEC 45th
Anniversary
Gala

Wednesday
September 26, 2018



We look forward to seeing you in 2018!

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Lisa B. Nelson
ALEC
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Arlington, VA 22202

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Gmail - Your CIED Updates 1/30/2018



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Your CIED Updates 1/30/2018

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <ahackbarth@alec.org>

To: latoursm@gmail.com

Tue, Jan 30, 2018 at 2:08 PM

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Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development:
January 30, 2018



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The Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development Task Force will be sending out monthly e-mails containing relevant articles and links we are following. Please feel free to respond with commentary and/or update us with any additional thoughts.

ALEC in Action

Join ALEC at the SPN and Liberty Justice Center *Janus v. AFSCME* Rally



On Monday, February 26, The Supreme Court will hold oral arguments for *Janus v. AFSCME*. Join the State Policy Network and Liberty Justice Center for a rally outside the Supreme Court to stand up against mandatory union fees.

[Learn More](#)

Labor Focus**Learn More About "Dues Skimming"**

State Policy Network



State governments take an estimated \$250 million from Medicaid, Child Care and Development Fund, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients and give that money to Unions. Learn more about "dues skimming" from the State Policy Network

[Go to Site](#)
Expert Opinion**Businesses Face Challenges With Impending Wage Hikes**

Robert Ordway | Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development



As Americans look to an exciting new year and politicos start gearing up for mid-term elections, 18 states along with 19 localities will be raising their minimum wage. When wages rise arbitrarily for employees but skill sets do not increase proportionately, employers will either reduce their workforces in people or hours, raise prices on customers or just go out of business altogether. Regardless of the option chosen, the entry level worker will feel the negative effects most.

[Read Article](#)
Economic Liberty**Dick Carpenter Discusses Occupational Licensing**Russ Roberts | *EconTalk*

ECON TALK

Dick Carpenter of the Institute for Justice and author of *Bottlenecks* talks with *Econ Talk* host Russ Roberts about his book--a look at how occupational licensing and other regulations protect existing job holders from competition.

[Listen Here](#)

Right to Work Update

Kentucky Challenge to Right to Work Dismissed

The Associated Press



In a legal victory for Kentucky's Republican governor, a judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by organized labor leaders who challenged the state's right-to-work law. Governor Matt Bevin said Wednesday that the judge's ruling confirms the right-to-work law is on solid legal ground and the legal challenge was "appropriately smacked down."

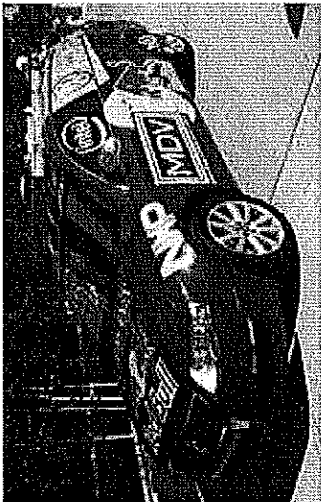
[Read Article](#)

Transportation Focus

States Embrace the Benefits of Autonomous Vehicles

Sara Friedman | GCN

With officials in Colorado and at the University of Michigan planning to put autonomous shuttles on the roads this year, state and local agencies across the country are working with industry to establish policies and regulations. An understanding of the technology can help municipalities make decisions for their long-term planning purposes.



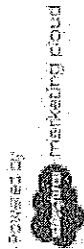
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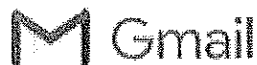
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CEO Update: 45 Years of Limited Government, Free Markets and Federalism

1 message

Lisa B. Nelson <lisanelson@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 2:20 PM

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Susan Allen
The Honorable Tom Davis and Mrs.
Jeannemarie Devolites Davis
The Honorable Newt Gingrich
Dr. Art Laffer
The Honorable Cathy McMorris
Rodgers
2019 ALEC National Chair Senator
Wayne Niederhauser
2018 ALEC National Chair
Representative Jason Saine
The Honorable Thom Tillis

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Meredith Atwell Baker, CTIA – The
Wireless Association
Ken Cole, Pfizer Inc.
Juanita Duggan, National Federation of
Independent Business
Michael D. Gallagher, Entertainment
Software Association
Richard S. Holson III, Guarantee Trust
Life Insurance
Laura Lane, United Parcel Service

Committee Members

Lou Barnett
Josh Brown, Pfizer Inc.
Travis Brown, Pelopidas
Sam Brunelli
Bill Carmichael, American Bail
Coalition
Marianne Eterno, Guarantee Trust Life
Insurance
Adam Falk, Charter Communications
Ken Freeman, Exxon Mobil
Corporation

Dear Members,

Forty-five years ago, a group of state leaders came together to form the American Legislative Exchange Council—people like Lew Uhler, Lou Barnett, Mark Rhoads, Henry Hyde, Terry Branstad and John Engler. They knew then, as we know now, that legislators and members of the private sector working together can have a more meaningful impact and create more opportunity for Americans than the government can working alone. They understood that a grassroots network of liberty-minded advocates was fundamental to spreading good ideas, but they likely had no idea how important ALEC would become.

For forty-five years, ALEC has been ahead of the curve on tax and fiscal policy, lawsuit reform, education choice, criminal justice and so many other issues fundamental to the American way of life. And, because of our focus on federalism rather than one-size-fits-all policy, ALEC has been able to put forth winning ideas—ideas that were more deeply vetted and more consistent with the will of the people.

Over the past year, the federal government has taken great steps to return power to the states. Through landmark tax reform and rule making designed to reduce the size of the federal government, our national leaders have signalled that now is the time for states to lead.

Just last night, the President offered a vision of a government that works hard to protect taxpayers and focuses on economic security for the middle class. Over the past year, that vision has become a reality with an \$8 trillion increase in the stock market, 2.4 million new jobs, a record low for unemployment and businesses reinvesting in the states.

Marva Johnson, Charter
Communications
Jimmy Kemp
Mike Kiely, United Parcel Service
Kent Lassman, Competitive Enterprise
Institute
Bernie Marcus
Garland McCoy, Technology Education
Institute
Bruce McRae, United Parcel Service
Cleta Mitchell
Steve Moore
Michael Morgan, Koch Companies
Public Sector
Lisa B. Nelson, American Legislative
Exchange Council
Grover Norquist, Americans for Tax
Reform
Alfredo Ortiz, Job Creators Network
Chirag Shah, Asian American Hotel
Owners Association
Dan Smith, Altria
Bridgett Wagner, The Heritage
Foundation

The past two months of bonus and compensation announcements across the American business landscape confirm to the American people what we already know: sound policy that unburdens American entrepreneurs and businesses yields a positive outcome for all Americans.

So as the 2018 legislative session heats up in your states, remember the ALEC mission and vision in all that you do. Limited government, free markets and federalism are a winning recipe for growth and opportunity.

I hope you will join me in celebrating the ALEC 45th Anniversary both in Washington, DC on September 26, and in your state.

Together, we can ensure ALEC continues it's ascendent path for another 45 years.

Sincerely,
Lisa B. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer
American Legislative Exchange Council



The American Legislative Exchange Council is the largest voluntary organization of conservative state legislators. ALEC works to advance the principles of limited government, free markets, and federalism at the state level.

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ALEC Digital Exchange: February 1, 2018



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ALEC in Action

Join ALEC at the SPN and Liberty Justice Center *Janus v. ASFCME* Rally



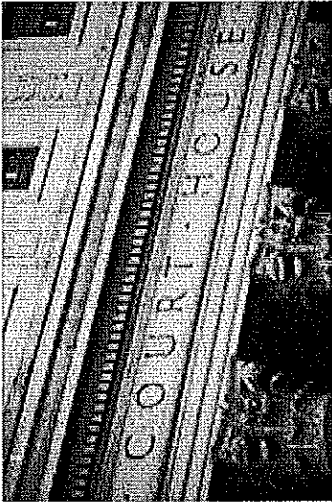
On Monday, February 26, The Supreme Court will hold oral arguments for *Janus v. ASFCME*. Join the State Policy Network and Liberty Justice Center for a rally outside the Supreme Court to stand up against mandatory union fees.

[Learn More](#)

Criminal Justice Reform

ALEC Signs Letter in Support of Alabama's Juvenile Justice Task Force Recommendations
Lacey White | American Legislative Exchange Council

On Thursday, January 25, the American Legislative Exchange Council signed a



letter in support of the recommendations recently finalized and released by the Alabama Juvenile Justice Task Force. The recommendations made are both cost-effective and productive, while simultaneously improving public safety.

[Read Article](#)

Energy and Infrastructure

Protecting Everyday Life Means Protecting America's Infrastructure

Grant Kidwell | Energy, Environment and Agriculture



This winter Americans have seen the importance of well-working infrastructure as much of the country has faced freezing temperatures. But it's not always Mother Nature that strains and damages our nation's infrastructure; sometimes, it's human influence.

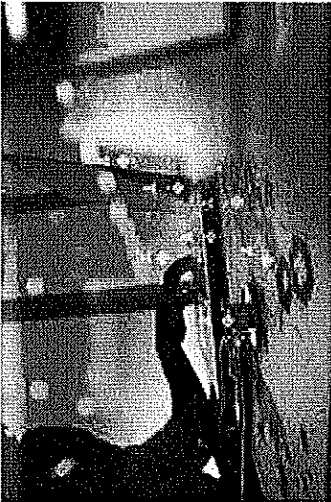
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Healthcare

The Amazon Experiment

Brooklyn Roberts | Health and Human Services

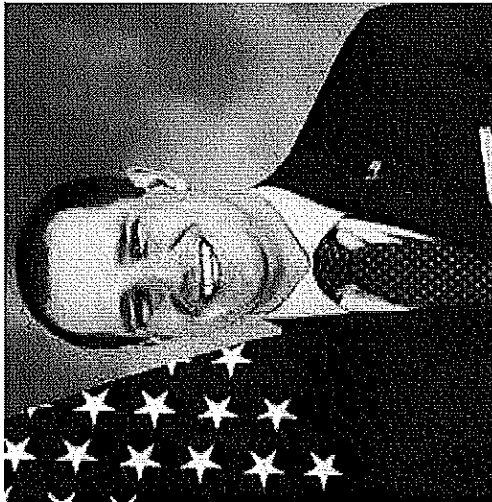
Earlier this week, Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway and JP Morgan Chase announced a new venture into the healthcare arena. Free markets have historically been the source of the most efficient and cost-effective solutions to problems—regardless of the industry. Experimentation in the private sector is a big step toward improvement.


[Read Article](#)

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Honoring Blue-Collar Roots and Protecting Taxpayers

Representative Ryan Warner | PA-52



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Pennsylvania State Representative Ryan Warner**. Warner is a down-to-earth legislator who enjoys rebuilding late-model Ford F-150s in his free time. An outspoken advocate of economic development, Warner sees one of his greatest challenges as "working to change the economy of our region from one that was based on steel and coal and expanding it to more diverse industries."

[Read Article](#)

State of the States Analysis

ALEC Analyzes State of the State Addresses

ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform

The Center for State Fiscal Reform has been authoring analyses of the State of the State addresses from across the nation. The center is focused on highlighting both strong and weak tax policies outlined in the speeches, and their



effects on the specific states. New this week are articles for the South Dakota, West Virginia, Idaho and Florida addresses. You can view all the entries by clicking below.

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News Bill Tracking Legislation

NEWS

Trump to promote tax overhaul in Cincinnati Monday (Associated Press, 2/2/2018)

Female lawmakers want Rep. Bill Seitz to resign (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/2/2018)

Trump to tout tax law in Cincinnati Monday (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/2/2018)

Are Ohio lawmakers serious about confronting sexual harassment at the Statehouse? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/2/2018)

Gov. John Kasich wants tougher rules for opioid drug distributors (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/2/2018)

Possible mystery candidate for governor puts \$1.5 million into campaign account (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/2/2018)

Talk It Out: How much money from drug companies would successfully combat Ohio's opioid epidemic? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/2/2018)

Labor-backed group targets grassroots Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 2/2/2018)

State imposing new rules on drug distributors to battle opioid scourge (Columbus Dispatch, 2/2/2018)

State to end wild-animal panels (Columbus Dispatch, 2/2/2018)

Three female Ohio lawmakers call on state rep who made crude remarks to quit (Columbus Dispatch, 2/2/2018)

Yost wants performance audit of JobsOhio (Columbus Dispatch, 2/2/2018)

Governor race: DeWine, Cordray each raise \$2M but DeWine has more cash (Dayton Daily News, 2/2/2018)

Incumbents hold big funding edge in Ohio's congressional races (Dayton Daily News, 2/2/2018)

Ohio doctor gives self \$1.5M for possible run for governor (Dayton Daily News, 2/2/2018)

Drug distributors face new state rules to fight opioid crisis (Journal-News, 2/2/2018)

Environmentalists make renewed push for U.S. EPA to declare western Lake Erie impaired (Toledo Blade, 2/2/2018)

Groups call for removal of Supreme Court Justice Terrence O'Donnell from ECOT case (Toledo Blade, 2/2/2018)

Remap talks stall again (Toledo Blade, 2/2/2018)

EDITORIALS

Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Economic life without NAFTA
(Akron Beacon Journal, 2/2/2018)

Let science drive marijuana policy - not superstition (Cincinnati Enquirer,
2/2/2018)

Was President Trump's first State of the Union address the stark truth or
performance theater? Editorial Board Roundtable (Cleveland Plain
Dealer, 2/2/2018)

Portman wages the opioid war (Toledo Blade, 2/2/2018)

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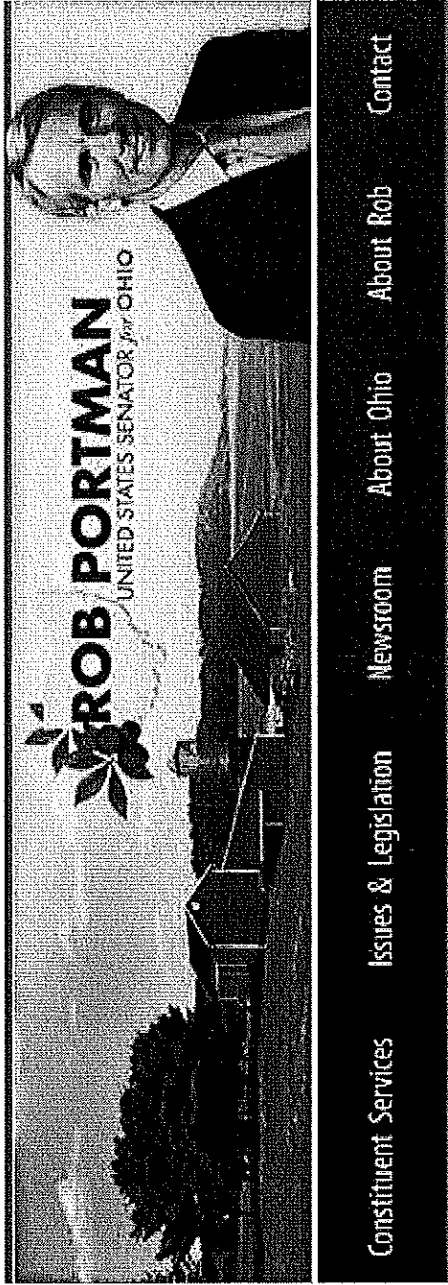
Rob's Rundown: Week of January 29 - February 2, 2018

1 message

Senator Rob Portman <no_reply@portman.senate.gov>

To: latoursm@gmail.com

Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 9:49 PM



On Tuesday, Senator Portman attended President Trump's State of the Union address, bringing with him Jay McDonald as his guest. Jay is the National Vice President of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and an active member of the Marion, Ohio Police Department, where he is a Major. He and the law enforcement officers he represent are key partners in the fights against the opioid crisis and human trafficking. Also this week, Portman continued to highlight the benefits of the historic *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*, made progress on his bill to help Habitat for Humanity, stood up for our ally Israel, led an Ohio delegation letter urging Amazon to choose Columbus as the location for its HQ2, and more. For an in depth look at Senator Portman's week, please see the following:

Monday, January 29

Portman Bill to Protect Habitat for Humanity Passes the House

On Monday, the House of Representatives passed the *Housing Opportunities Made Easier (HOME)* Act, legislation authored by U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) that would ensure that Habitat for Humanity affiliates and other organizations can receive donated appraisals on the homes they build. Portman issued the following statement:

"Habitat for Humanity makes an indispensable contribution to Ohio, providing safe and affordable homes for families in need. The HOME Act will make it easier for Habitat to carry out its mission by eliminating unnecessary red tape and freeing up more resources that Habitat can use to help more people in Ohio and across our great country. I want to thank my colleagues in the House for recognizing that and for passing this bill, and I now urge the Senate to act."

"We have long appreciated Sen. Portman's strong support of the work of our 52 Habitat affiliates to end poverty housing in Ohio, and thank the Senator for introducing this important legislation. Donated goods and services help Habitat keep home prices low, and more qualified Ohioans will become Habitat homeowners if this bill is enacted," said Ryan Miller, executive director, Habitat for Humanity of Ohio.

"Habitat for Humanity greatly appreciates Sen. Portman's sponsoring legislation to ensure appraisers can continue to voluntarily donate their services to Habitat affiliates," said Christopher Ptomey, Habitat for Humanity International's director of government relations. "With Habitat affiliates annually providing approximately 4,000 homeownership opportunities to lower-income families in the United States, each of which will require an appraisal, this legislation will save Habitat affiliates millions of dollars annually and maximize the impact of limited donor and government funding for qualified families in need of decent housing."

For more information, go here.

Portman Votes to Protect Life, Supports Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

Monday afternoon, Portman voted to protect life by supporting the *Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act*, which restricts abortions on unborn children after the 20-week mark, the point at which scientific evidence tells us an unborn child can feel pain. The latest Marist Poll found that more than six in 10 Americans - by a 66-33 margin - support a ban on abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy. Portman issued the following statement:

"The U.S. is one of just seven nations that allows abortions after five months of pregnancy. This legislation would protect unborn babies and make a strong statement that we value all life. I'm disappointed that this important legislation was blocked by Senate Democrats. While members have differing views on abortion, we should at least be able to agree that if an unborn child has reached the point where he or she can feel pain, that child's life deserves protection. The sanctity of life is fundamental, and I am committed to protecting it."

NOTE:Portman has consistently voted to protect the unborn and has a 100% pro-life voting record from National Right to Life Committee. He is also the author the *Child Custody Protection Act*, which would make it a federal offense to transport a minor across a state line for an abortion if it would circumvent a state law requiring parental involvement in that minor's abortion.

Tuesday, February 30

Ahead of the State of the Union Address, Portman Applauds Trump Administration for Major Step in Permitting Reform

Ahead of Tuesday night's State of the Union address, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) today applauded the Trump administration for using the tools authorized by his signed-into-law *Federal Permitting Improvement Act*, which helps streamline the federal infrastructure permitting process to boost our economy and create jobs. The bill was enacted into law last Congress as Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41). The Trump Administration and the state of Louisiana have entered into the first memorandum of understanding between the federal government and a state to facilitate the infrastructure permitting process for a project covered by FAST-41. Portman released the following statement:

"I appreciate the efforts of the Trump administration to make permitting reform a priority because it will improve our economy, create more jobs, and help us rebuild our infrastructure more quickly. When I introduced the Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2015, I envisioned project sponsors, federal agencies, and states all coming together at the start of a project to set out a plan that would make the permitting process make sense. When Congress enacted FAST-41, we hoped it would reduce delays and costs, provide more certainty, help create jobs, and ensure the environment is protected appropriately."

"I am pleased to see that vision take a crucial step toward becoming reality. Last week, the state of Louisiana and six federal agencies signed the first memorandum of understanding between the federal government and a state to facilitate the infrastructure permitting process for a project covered by FAST-41. Under this agreement, the parties will work together to reduce the estimated permitting timeline from five years to two years. As the lead agency on this \$1.3 billion Louisiana coastal restoration project, the Army Corps of Engineers did an outstanding job bringing all of the parties together to develop an integrated plan. This memorandum will provide a roadmap for the project going forward, and it will streamline a complicated, years-long permitting process."

"This memorandum represents a significant step toward an improved infrastructure permitting process. I look forward to continuing to building on this progress with the administration and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council to develop innovative ways to streamline and improve the federal infrastructure permitting process."

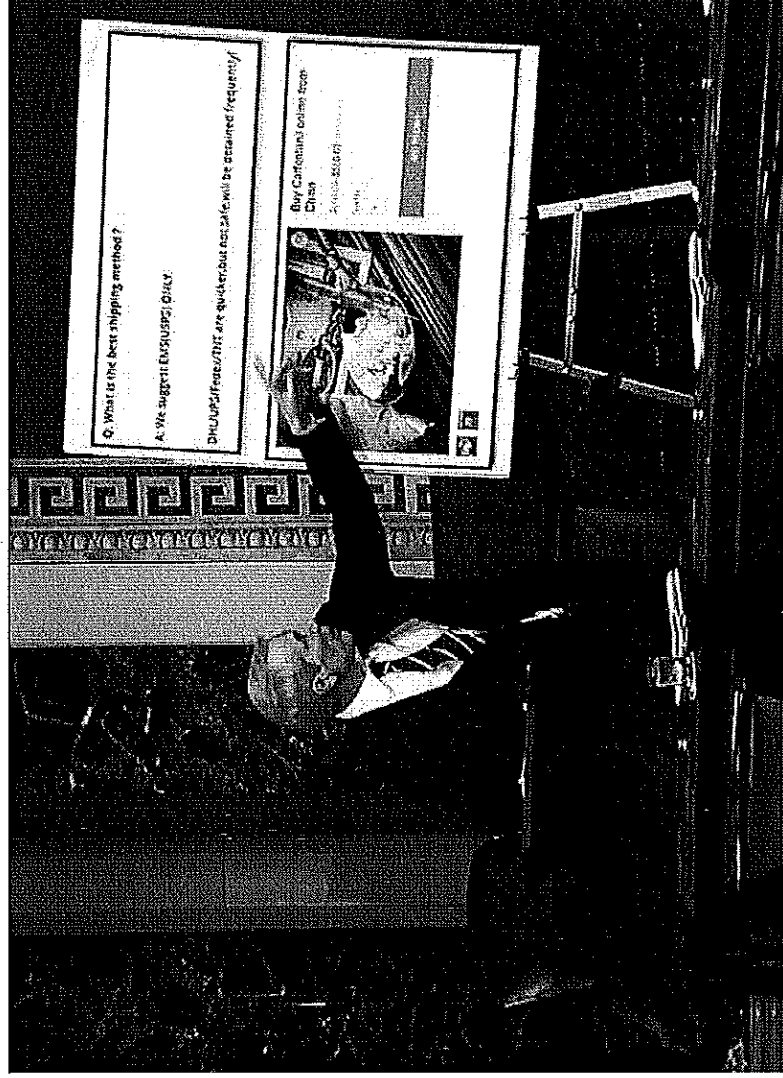
NOTE: In 2015, Sens. Portman and Claire McCaskill (D-MO) cosponsored legislation that ultimately became Title 41 of the FAST Act. FAST-41 requires that one agency serve as the lead agency for covered projects; all agencies involved in covered projects develop a coordinated permitting timeline at the start of the process; and agencies must post the permitting timeline and updates to it on an online Permitting Dashboard throughout the permitting process for each covered project. FAST-41 also established the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council to help implement best practices in the permitting process and serve as resource for coordinating covered projects. Last September, Portman chaired a Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI) hearing on how permitting reform, like FAST-41, will create good-paying jobs across the country. Last June, Portman and McCaskill sent a letter to President Trump urging his

administration to use the tools authorized by their signed-into-law *Federal Permitting Improvement Act* and appoint a permanent Executive Director for the Council.

On Senate Floor, Portman Highlights PSI Report on Drug Traffickers Shipping Fentanyl Into the U.S. Through the Postal Service

Last week, Portman's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI), which he chairs, released a shocking bipartisan report, which details how drug traffickers exploit vulnerabilities in our international mail system to easily ship synthetic drugs like fentanyl from China into the United States through the U.S. Postal Service. He held a hearing on the report last Thursday. On Tuesday, Portman, who has been a national leader in the effort to fight addiction, discussed the investigation's findings on the Senate floor. Portman urged his Senate colleagues to act on the bipartisan *Synthetic Trafficking & Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act*, saying *"there is clearly a need for a legislative solution to prevent these drugs from entering our country through our own mail system."*

Transcript of the speech can be found here and a link can be found here.



Portman Leads Ohio Delegation Letter Urging Amazon to Select Columbus for its Second Headquarters

Following Amazon's announcement of their top 20 finalists for its second headquarters, Portman led an Ohio delegation letter to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos urging the company to choose Columbus, Ohio, as the location of Amazon's HQ2 and invited him to meet with the Ohio delegation to discuss how Columbus and Central Ohio are best suited to meet the needs of the company.

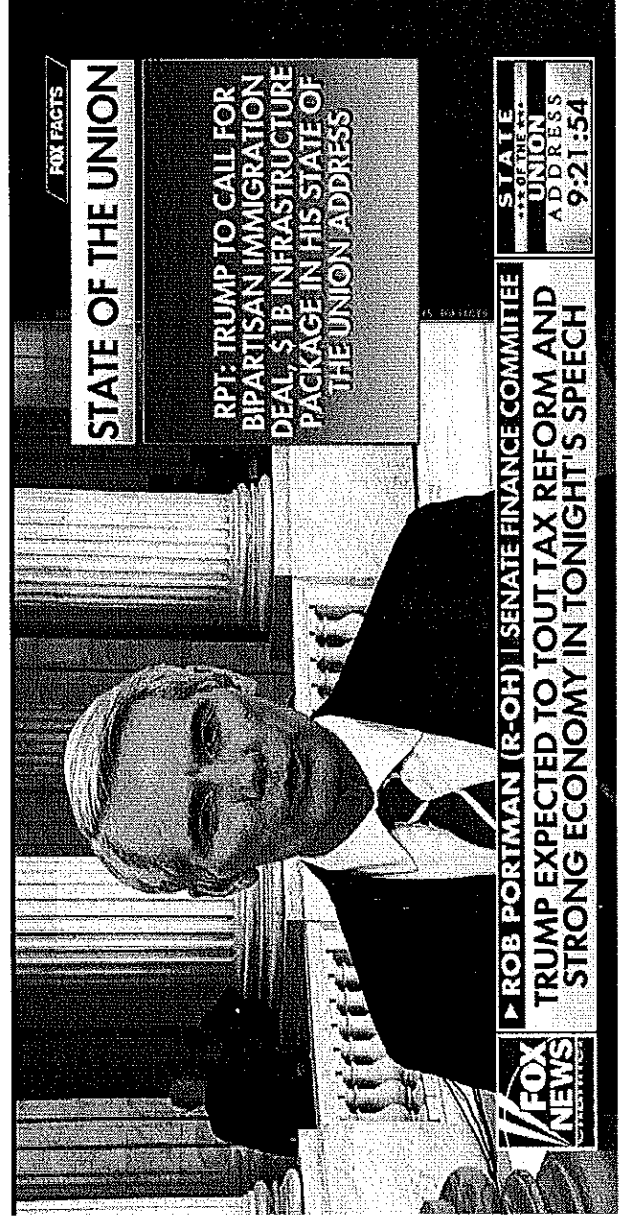
"We are fully committed to facilitating job growth in the State and pleased to offer our support to this important project," wrote the delegation. "This potential multi-billion-dollar investment, which could lead to 50,000 direct employment jobs, will have a significant economic impact for Ohio."

For more information, go here.

On Fox News, Portman Discusses SOTU, Tax Reform & Jobs, PSI Report on Drug Traffickers Shipping Fentanyl Through the Mail

During an interview on Fox News on Tuesday, Portman discussed the new jobs, higher wages, and other positive benefits we're seeing as a result of tax reform, what he hopes to hear during the president's State of the Union Address, and his stunning new bipartisan report released last week that details how drug traffickers exploit vulnerabilities in our international mail system to easily ship synthetic drugs like fentanyl from China into the United States. Portman said that President Trump should talk tonight about the need to improve workforce development for 21st century jobs and do more to address the opioid crisis.

Excerpts of the interview can be found here and a video can be found here.



Portman Joins 35 Senators in Urging President Trump to Effectively Modernize NAFTA

Portman joined Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) and 34 of their colleagues in sending a letter to President Trump highlighting how the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) benefits the United States and urging him to modernize the agreement to better reflect the 21st century economy.

"NAFTA supports 14 million jobs, representing thousands of jobs in each of the 50 states," the senators wrote. "Despite all of its benefits, however, we can do better and there are opportunities to improve the agreement. Modernizing NAFTA to increase market access, expand energy exports to maximize domestic energy production and including provisions on intellectual property and e-commerce will make this agreement even more beneficial to the United States."

The full letter can be found [here](#).

Portman Statement on President Trump's State of the Union Address

Portman released the following statement ahead of President Trump's State of the Union Address:

"I hope President Trump uses this speech as an opportunity to bring the country together around a common-sense agenda focused on building a safe, strong, and proud America. Over the last year, we have made progress on a host of important issues. We are already seeing the benefits of the new tax reform law across Ohio with companies giving pay raises and bonuses, expanding benefits and investing more in equipment. The administration has taken action to provide regulatory relief to small businesses and is making permitting reform a priority to reduce needless delays and help us rebuild our infrastructure more quickly. We've also begun to restore America's leadership role in the world, imposing new sanctions on Russia and North Korea, and passing a defense authorization bill to give our troops a pay raise and ensure they have the tools and resources they need to succeed in their mission. Lastly, we not only successfully confirmed Supreme Court Justice Gorsuch, but also a record number of circuit court of appeals judges in the first year of a presidency and numerous district court judges.

"While we have made some progress, there is much more work to do and I hope the president talks about how we can work together to further improve the economy, address the opioid crisis, and strengthen our national defense. We have a real opportunity to help the most vulnerable among us, whether it's those who are suffering from addiction or women and children who are victims of human trafficking. I'm hopeful the Senate will pass two common-sense bills, the STOP Act and the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, which will help us better combat the opioid epidemic and stop online sex trafficking. We must also continue to strengthen our economy by working together to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure and improve job training programs targeted toward in-demand infrastructure-related jobs. These are just a few of the important issues ahead of us. I'm looking forward to playing a significant role in helping to deliver results over the next year. I'm ready to work with the president, his administration, and anyone else, Republican or Democrat, toward solutions that address these issues."

Wednesday, January 31

Portman, Brown Back Bipartisan Bill to Prosecute Criminals in DNA Cold Cases, Exonerate Wrongfully Convicted

Senators Portman and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) joined colleagues in introducing bipartisan legislation, the *Justice Served Act*, which would provide funds to prosecute the rape kit backlog and justice for victims of heinous crimes like sexual assault by resolving cold cases and exonerating those wrongfully convicted of crimes they did not commit.

"The Debbie Smith Act has given law enforcement the tools to process the rape kit backlog by using DNA technology," said Portman. "I'm proud of the work being done in crime labs across Ohio. This legislation will ensure that we put a priority on resolving old sexual assault cases and providing victims the justice and closure they deserve."

For more information about the bill, go here.

Portman Statement on Train Accident

Portman issued the following statement following Wednesday's train accident on the way to the House and Senate Republican Member retreat in West Virginia:

"Jane and I were on the train this morning traveling to the House and Senate Republican Member retreat. We are both fine. We are keeping those who were injured in our prayers and are grateful for the first responders who quickly arrived on the scene."

Thursday, February 1

Portman, Cardin Statement on UN Human Rights Council Report Compiling Anti-Israel Blacklist

Senators Portman and Ben Cardin (D-MD), co-authors of the *Israel Anti-Boycott Act* (S. 720), issued the following statement in response to the UN Human Rights Council's (UNHRC) report detailing its work establishing a list of companies operating or investing in certain Israeli-controlled territories, which preliminarily targeted 22 U.S. companies:

"We strongly oppose the ongoing efforts to compile a blacklist of companies that do business in Israeli-controlled territories. Twenty-two U.S. companies have been preliminarily identified by the UNHRC's methodology."

"We oppose all efforts by international organizations seeking to undermine prospects for resuming negotiations for a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians."

"In response to specific actions like the 2016 UNHRC resolution that created the blacklist, we introduced the Israel Anti-Boycott Act. This bipartisan legislation protects U.S. companies from unsanctioned international boycotts and preserves the space for direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. The preliminary list released yesterday by

UNHRC underscores the urgent need for swift action to modernize existing anti-boycott laws."

NOTE: The *Israel Anti-Boycott Act*, sponsored by Senators Cardin and Portman in the Senate and Reps. Peter Roskam (R-IL) and Juan Vargas (D-CA) in the House, was introduced in response to a March 2016 UNHRC resolution, which directed the preparation of a database of companies operating or investing beyond the "Green Line," including, among other areas, East Jerusalem and the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. The bill would amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to prohibit boycotts or requests for boycotts imposed by international governmental organizations against Israel—similar to prohibitions already long in place with respect to boycotts imposed by foreign countries. The legislation makes clear that the *Israel Anti-Boycott Act* does not "alter the established policy of the United States or establish new United States policy concerning final status issues associated with the Arab-Israel conflict, including border delineation that can only be resolved through direct negotiations between the parties."

Friday, February 2

In a New Video, Portman Highlights Results for the Middle-Class Tax Reform Tour

On Friday, Portman, following the positive jobs report showing strong job gains and the fastest wage growth since 2009, unveiled a new video highlighting his Results for the Middle-Class Tax Reform Tour in Ohio. In January, Portman visited Sheffer Corporation in Cincinnati, Wolf Metals in Columbus, Tremco in Cleveland, and Bruns General Contracting in Tipp City, all of which have announced more investment in plants and equipment, wage increases, bonuses, and/or additional retirement security benefits because of the savings they expect from tax reform. These are four of many Ohio companies that are increasing investments and strengthening worker benefits following passage of the historic *Tax Cuts & Jobs Act*. Portman released the following statement:

"Tax reform was an investment in American workers, American families, and American businesses. The results are what's happening at places like Sheffer Corporation, Wolf Metals, Tremco, and Bruns General, where small businesses are taking advantage of this new tax reform bill. The historic tax reform legislation allows companies to add jobs and hire more workers, purchase more equipment, strengthen retirement benefits, and more. The workers I spoke with during my tour in January know this tax bill is helping to make their business more competitive and will help give them a healthier family budget. I'm pleased that we continue to see these kinds of positive responses from Ohio businesses as a direct result of this tax reform law, and I believe this is only the beginning."

RESULTS FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS TAX REFORM TOUR

Portman Applauds Strong Jobs Report, Fastest Wage Growth Since 2009

Portman issued the following statement on the Labor Department's January 2018 jobs report showing strong job gains and wage growth:

"Today's report shows strong job gains and the fastest wage growth since 2009, and that's good news for American workers and their families. Our economy is improving, and growing wages is a critically important part of that effort, but we must put a priority on helping Americans who are still struggling to make ends meet. I'm hopeful that we can make progress this year on strengthening our workforce development programs, rebuilding our aging infrastructure, and combating the opioid epidemic that, in some cases, is undermining employers' efforts to hire the workers they need. We have much more work to do, but I'm pleased that Ohio companies are making more investment in plants and equipment, increasing wages, paying bonuses, and strengthening retirement benefits for their workers as a result of the new tax reform law. It is making a real difference for working families, for businesses large and small, and our economy, and I'm committed to working with my colleagues to continue the economic progress we're making."

On Social Media



Rob Portman @senrobportman · Jan 30

Good to have @jmcdonaldhofp with me in the Capitol for tonight's #SOTU. Jay & the #Ohio law enforcement officers he represent are valuable partners in the fight against the #opioidcrisis & #humantrafficking.



Rob Portman @senrobportman · Jan 30

Otto Warmbier was a remarkable young man. It was very moving to see #POTUS honor his memory & recognize the Warmbier family tonight. Jane and I had another good visit with them today, and we continue to lift them up in our prayers.

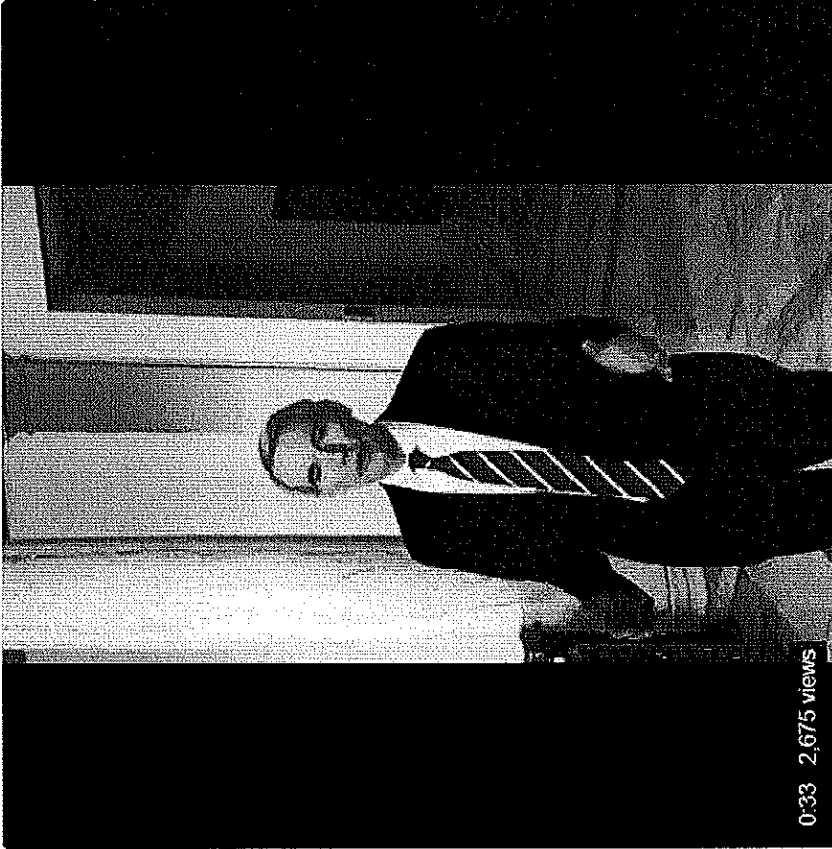
7/23/2018

Gmail - Rob's Rundown: Week of January 29 - February 2, 2018



Rob Portman @senrobportman · Jan 30

Over the past year, we have made progress on the economy, #jobs, & more, but there is much more to do. I'm hoping the president uses tonight's #SOTU as an opportunity to bring the country together.





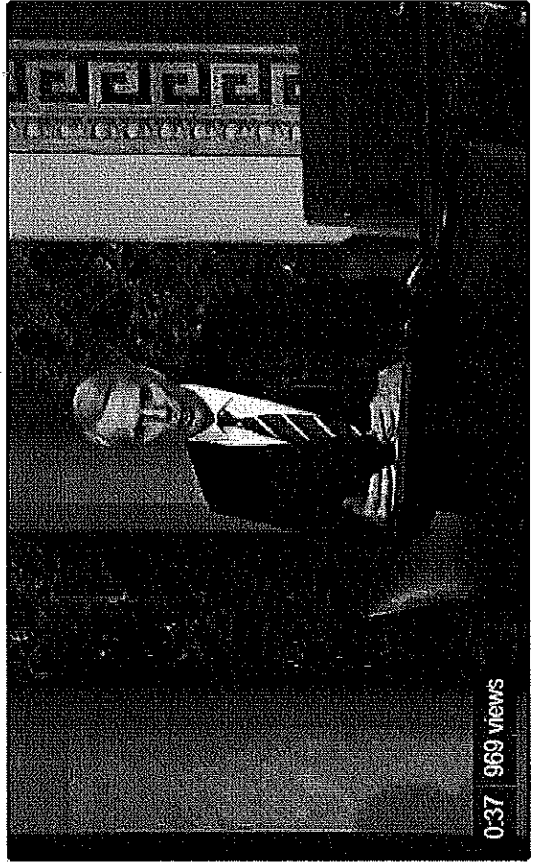
Rob Portman @senrobportman · Jan 30

Good meeting with Judge Fred Moses who oversees the Hocking County #Ohio drug court program. I've seen it firsthand, and it is making a real difference for Ohioans in need. #CAPA



Rob Portman @senrobportman · 4h

The #opioidcrisis has unfolded in 3 different waves. First came the prescription drug epidemic, then came heroin, & now synthetic opioids like fentanyl. The results have been deadly:

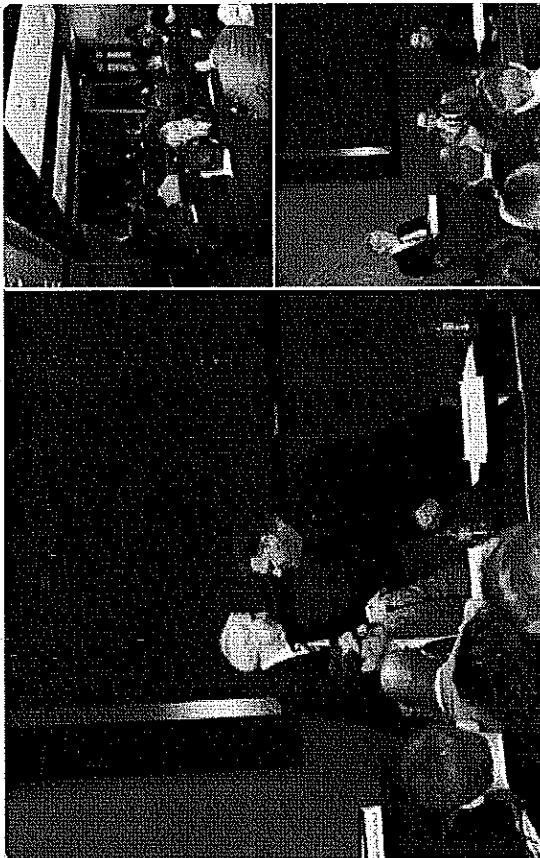


0:37 969 views



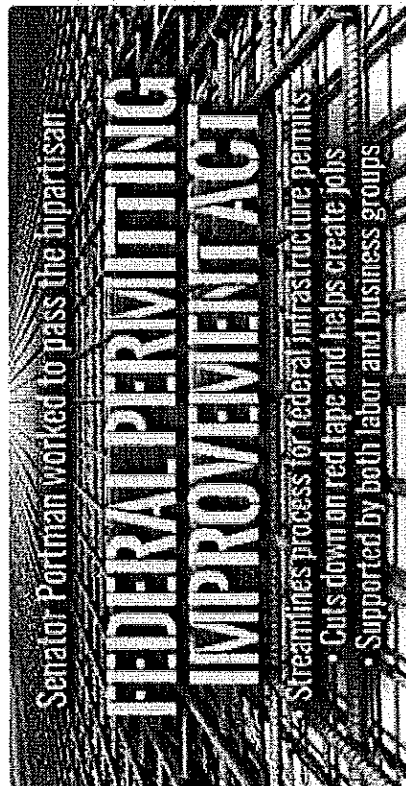
Rob Portman @senrobportman · Jan 30

Honored to introduce Travis Bornstein of Akron & president of @Teamsters Local 24 here in the Capitol for a town hall on the #opioidcrisis. After his son's overdose death, Travis has made it his life's work to help others gripped by addiction.



Rob Portman @senrobportman · Jan 30

Pleased that my Federal Permitting Improvement Act is working to develop innovative ways to streamline & improve the federal infrastructure permitting process. bit.ly/2DMEhEw





Rob Portman @senrobportman · Jan 30

I'll be live shortly on @FoxNews with @JonScottFNC. Talking State of the Union and more. #SOTU



Portman Says the Postal Service Must Take Opioids at Least as Seriously as Counterfeit Purses

Portman is ratcheting up pressure on the Postal Service to help track the flow of synthetic opioids primarily from China to the U.S.

A report released by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations last week tracked online purchases of fentanyl and carfentanil by 300 buyers in 43 states - with Ohio, Pennsylvania

and Florida making the most purchases.

Portman hammered on witnesses from the Postal Service and State Department, who have been resisting his push to require electronic shipping information on international parcels, saying they seem to regard it as less important than tracking counterfeit purses...

("Portman Says the Postal Service Must Take Opioids at Least as Seriously as Counterfeit Purses," M.L. Schultze. WKSU. January 28, 2018)

THE DAILY CALLER

China Responds To Senate Investigation Highlighting Massive Fentanyl Trafficking

Officials in China are vowing to step up cooperation with U.S. drug agents to halt fentanyl trafficking after a Senate investigation highlighted the country as the primary source of the deadly substance.

The response came in the wake of statements from Republican Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio and others on Capitol Hill this week calling for increased pressure on countries, particularly China, where the bulk of the world's illicit synthetic opioids are manufactured. Portman said the alarming report shows just how easy it is to obtain fentanyl from China, and said lawmakers are not doing enough to prevent trafficking. He said that the "federal government can, and must, act to shore up our defenses," reports The Times-Gazette.

Opioid overdoses made up a staggering 66 percent of all drug overdose deaths in 2016, surpassing the annual number of lives lost to breast cancer. Deaths from fentanyl, which is roughly 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine, experienced a particularly dramatic increase, more than doubling from 9,580 lives in 2015 to 19,413 lives last year...

("China Responds To Senate Investigation Highlighting Massive Fentanyl Trafficking," Steve Birr. Daily Caller. January 27, 2018)

ideastream®

Business Hopping For Ohio Craft Brewers

The Ohio Craft Brewers Association is holding its annual convention in Cleveland this week. Sure, there's beer there, but mostly it's all about the hops, the grains, the bottles - the business of brewing. And business is good...

The brewers are feeling good about a new cut in the federal excise tax that was sponsored by Senator Rob Portman of Ohio. For small brewers the tax is cut in half from \$7 a barrel to \$3.50. Association spokesman Justin Hemminger said that's a boon to these small businesses.

"Even just a few thousand dollars can mean the difference between whether or not you have the flexibility to make a capital improvement you've been looking to do for a while, hire a new staff," Hemminger said. "It's absolutely essential to the bottom line of these breweries." ...

("Business Hopping For Ohio Craft Brewers," Mark Urycki. Cleveland Idea Stream. January 31, 2018)

THE HILL

Key senator floats new compromise for immigration talks

A key Republican senator is floating a new proposal to essentially codify President Obama's 2012 executive order creating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in order to break a standoff with Democrats over immigration.

The idea, floated by Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) in private conversations with Republican and Democratic senators, would give legal status to immigrants who entered the country illegally as children in exchange for stronger border security.

It would stop short of creating a path to citizenship for the immigrants known as "Dreamers" and help deliver on President Trump's promise to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. It also would cut out changes to two other legal immigration programs that have been part of a White House framework proposal.

"I just have been making the point that for those of us who want to get something done, we haven't looked at some sort of skinned-down version" of immigration reform, said Portman, a former House member and official in the George W. Bush administration who is seen as a dealmaker.

"Focus on what's doable," he added. "I've talked to Democrats and Republicans." ...

("Key senator floats new compromise for immigration talks," Alex Bolton. The Hill. January 30, 2018)

7/23/2018

Gmail - Rob's Rundown: Week of January 29 - February 2, 2018

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7/23/2018

Gmail - Fwd: RALLY AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE ON FEBRUARY THE 24th.



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Fwd: RALLY AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE ON FEBRUARY THE 24th.

1 message

William Reineke <william.reineke@drivereineke.com>

To: "bdhill1964@yahoo.com" <bdhill1964@yahoo.com>, "latoursm@gmail.com" <latoursm@gmail.com>, "scott@friendsofscottlipps.com" <scott@friendsofscottlipps.com>

Sat, Feb 3, 2018 at 7:35 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Reineke <tom.reineke@drivereineke.com>

Date: February 3, 2018 at 7:29:35 AM EST

To: William Reineke <william.reineke@drivereineke.com>

Subject: Fwd: RALLY AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE ON FEBRUARY THE 24th.

FYI

Tom Reineke

Begin forwarded message:

From: 1219 NEWS <1219news@gmail.com>

Date: February 2, 2018 at 9:45:16 PM EST

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Subject: RALLY AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE ON FEBRUARY THE 24th.

February 2, 2018

Greetings,

SEE YOU AT THE STATEHOUSE in Columbus~ On Saturday, Feb. 24.

We will begin gathering at the Statehouse at 10:30 a.m. and the rally starts at 12 p.m.

Right to work is WRONG!

GET INVOLVED ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:

- ISSUES...
 - RIGHT TO WORK IS WRONG
 - PREVAILING WAGE
 - HISTORY OF SB5
 - Mark your calendars to participate in the Working People's Day of Action on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus.
 - We will begin gathering at the Statehouse at 10:30 a.m.
1. The rally starts at 12 p.m
 2. WHAT'S THE RALLY IS ALL ABOUT?
 3. This really is part of a National Day of Action being held in 10 cities across the U.S. to fight back against attacks on workers.
 4. There are many reasons Ohioans need to join together and show our strength right now.
 5. Republican statehouse politicians are at it again, just like during Senate Bill 5,
 6. Trying to bring Right to Work to our state. This time, they want to enshrine six anti-worker amendments to Ohio's Constitution.
 7. Beyond Ohio's borders, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear Janus vs. AFSCME Council 31, which could make the entire country Right to Work for public employees.
 8. We know who bought and paid for these attempts to silence workers – **ALEC**

and the billionaire Koch brothers.

9. No workers are lining up to support Right to Work because like Senate Bill 5, they know these proposals are **WRONG** for working people and **WRONG** for Ohio.
10. For these reasons and more, we need a strong showing of workers against these attacks at the event on February 24!
11. We already know that when we join forces and stick together, we are unstoppable.
12. **THE DETAILS:**
13. **WHAT:** Working People's Day of Action Rally.
14. **TIME:** Gathering begins at 10:30 a.m.; Rally begins at noon.
15. **LOCATION:** Ohio Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio.
16. Working People's Day of Action.

17. **LET'S ALL PLAN TO GO.~**

One trusted source told 1219news@gmail.com.....The Rally will be held inside.

1219news@gmail.com will go out on a *limb* and predict that busses will be provided for the trip and will leave from the UAW Hall on Bellefontaine Avenue.

Please watch these newsletters for possible corrections and further information.

In Solidarity,
1219news@gmail.com

7/23/2018

Gmail - Fwd: RALLY AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE ON FEBRUARY THE 24th.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=633a3672ae&jsver=EWKsbuuUcyk.en.&cbt=gmail_fe_180716.14_p7&view=pt&q=janus&qg=true&search=query&th=1615baa200b20ce7&mb=1



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

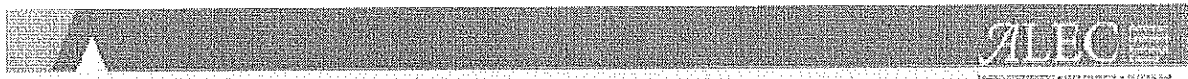
Center to Protect Free Speech Monthly Updates

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <tmclaughlin@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Tue, Feb 6, 2018 at 4:55 PM

To view this email as a web page, go here.



Center to Protect Free Speech - February 6, 2018

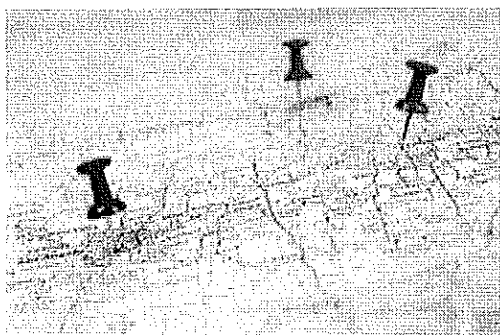


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Twitter

Center to Protect Free Speech Starts Off 2018 with Multiple State Issue Briefs

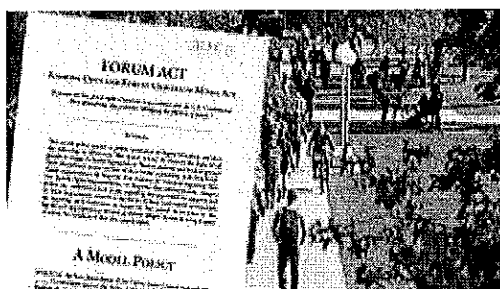
Contact Shelby Emmett for more information: Semmett@alec.org

The Center to Protect Free Speech has been busy holding issue briefs in states across the country—and it's only the first week of February. So far, the Center has traveled to Nebraska and Missouri. The Center will be traveling to Kansas and Pennsylvania in the coming months. If you'd like to schedule an issue briefing in your state, [contact Center Director Shelby Emmett](#).

Campus Speech

ALEC Model Policy, the Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act Gains Momentum in the States

Shelby Emmett | Center to Protect Free Speech



The [FORUM Act](#) has brought together student groups, free speech advocates and legislators as they work to protect free speech for all students on campus. To date, legislation has been introduced in South Carolina, South Dakota and Iowa. The Center has also helped educate lawmakers as they tackle free speech on campus in Arizona, Florida, Nebraska and Georgia. If you have questions about free speech in your state, please [contact the Center](#). We are here to help!

Donor Privacy/Disclosure

Washington State Legislators to Nonprofits: Give Us Your Donor List or Shut Up

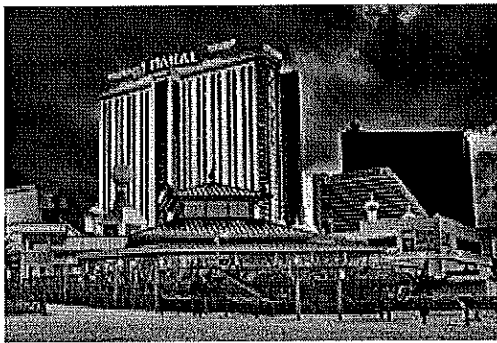
Alex Baiocco | Institute for Free Speech



Alex Baiocco writes a [great piece about the Washington DISCLOSE Act on the Institute for Free Speech website](#). If your state is considering DISCLOSE-type legislation please contact the Center. You may be surprised how bills intended to provide transparency may actually violate the Free Speech rights of individual donors and non-profit organizations. For more information about donor disclosure bills, check out the [Donor Disclosure Legislative Toolkit](#).

Commercial Speech

Commercial Speech in New Jersey: Judge Grants a Preliminary Injunction Against the State's BYOB Advertising Ban on the Basis that it Constitutes a Content-Based Restriction



[GJJM ENTERPRISES, LLC v. CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY et al.](#) tackles with the struggles businesses have advertising because of content-based advertising restrictions.

The Tale of Electronic Billboards, Beautiful Communities and the (Outdated) City Ordinance in Kenosha

Rex Davenport | *Kenosha News*



Every city council has to balance two very important issues: an aesthetically pleasing community and the ability for businesses to advertise and grow. [Read here to learn how the city of Kenosha, Wisconsin](#) is trying to strike the right balance to protect commercial speech and a beautiful city.

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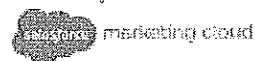


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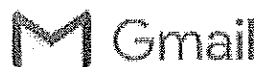


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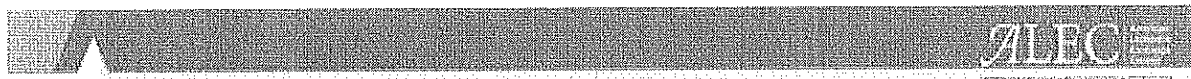
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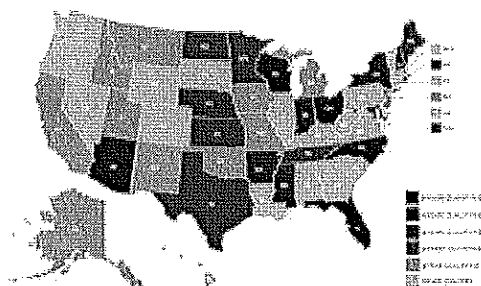
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Tax Cut Roundup**Center for State Fiscal Reform Holds Conference Call on *Tax Cut Roundup***

FIGURE 1: STATES THAT HAVE A TAX CUT OR NEW TAXES IN 2018



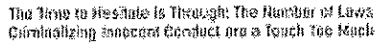
The ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform will be holding a conference call on **Friday, February 16 at 11:00 AM** to discuss its upcoming report, *Tax Cut Roundup*. To RSVP for the call, fill out the form linked below.

[RSVP For Call](#)
Criminal Justice**New State Factor: The Number of Laws Criminalizing Innocent Conduct Are Too Much**

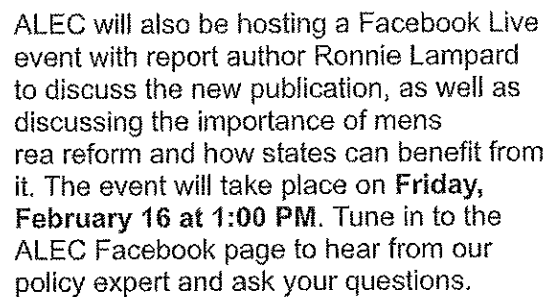
Ronald J. Lampard | Criminal Justice

With the explosion in the number of criminal statutes and criminal regulations, it is particularly difficult for an individual to know what conduct has been deemed criminal or noncriminal. In addition, each year lawmakers at the federal, state and local levels pass criminal laws that do not prescribe a standard of culpability. This new report discusses the importance of *mens rea* reform and reducing overcriminalization, as well as exploring state policy trends on the issues.

[Read Publication](#)

[illegible]

4-1994 *Howe* depicts the American
experience through a series of scenes
describing the lives of the people
living in the American West.



The Center for State Fiscal Reform is continuing its in-depth analyses of the State of the State addresses from across the nation. The center is focused on highlighting both strong and weak tax policies outlined in the speeches, and their effects on the specific states. This week's new additions are analyses of the **Kentucky**, **Michigan** and **Missouri** addresses. You can view all the entries by clicking below.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=633a3672ae&jsver=FNQ3PNISPMI.en.&cbl=gmail_fe_180717.14_p6&view=pt&q=%22alec%22%20%22american%22



Kelly Townsend. Representative Townsend is a retired Navy aircraft mechanic who takes the oath she made to defend the Constitution very seriously, commenting that her reason to seek office was that, "the rights and protections the Constitution affords the people in my district are the foundation of this country and I felt called to office in order to strengthen and defend them."

Townsend is particularly proud of her work on passing a resolution calling for an **Article V** Convention of States. Following that, she was made the Chair of the **Balanced Budget Amendment Planning Convention** held in Phoenix in August 2017, and continues to work on the issue.

[Read Article](#)

STFS Registration

Registration Open for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit



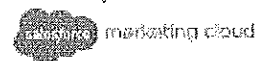
Registration is now open for the **Spring Task Force Summit**. This year's summit will be on April 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. To register, follow the link below. If you have any questions about STFS, please contact Mason Hunt at mhunt@alec.org

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Ohio Media Clips, Tuesday, February 13

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News Bill Tracking Legislation

NEWS

Ohio Supreme Court to hear online charter school ECOT's funding case Tuesday (Associated Press, 2/13/2018)

President Trump's infrastructure plan relies on state, local funding (Associated Press, 2/13/2018)

Lower Ohio electric rates based on federal tax cut won't be easy or quick (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/13/2018)

Ohio auditor finds flaw in medical marijuana business license scoring process (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/13/2018)

State school board votes to recover \$19 million from ECOT (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/13/2018)

Trump budget would cut grant programs that benefit Ohio, add money to fight opioids (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/13/2018)

What will Trump's budget mean for Ohio? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/13/2018)

Ohio drug overdose deaths up 39% -- nearly triple US average (Columbus Dispatch, 2/13/2018)

Ohio Supreme Court is ECOT's last hope (Columbus Dispatch, 2/13/2018)

Ohio takes in \$20 million in overdue taxes from insurance agents (Columbus Dispatch, 2/13/2018)

Senators Portman, Brown to talk trade at White House (Columbus Dispatch, 2/13/2018)

Trump's proposed budget would cut spending but not deficits (Columbus Dispatch, 2/13/2018)

Employers may be able to keep workers' tips under proposed labor rule (Dayton Daily News, 2/13/2018)

Gov. Kasich orders flags at half-staff to honor slain officers (Dayton Daily News, 2/13/2018)

Mike Turner wants groomsman, fellow congressman deposed in divorce hearings (Dayton Daily News, 2/13/2018)

Ohio Supreme Court ruling against abortion clinics could impact Kettering clinic (Dayton Daily News, 2/13/2018)

Are you owed money? (Journal-News, 2/13/2018)

Gambling revenue down across Ohio and at Hollywood Casino (Toledo Blade, 2/13/2018)

EDITORIALS

**Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Congress functions for a time
(Akron Beacon Journal, 2/13/2018)**

**Doug Oplinger: What I heard Ohioans say about the opioid crisis (Akron
Beacon Journal, 2/13/2018)**

Secrets are not change (Toledo Blade, 2/13/2018)

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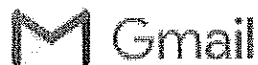
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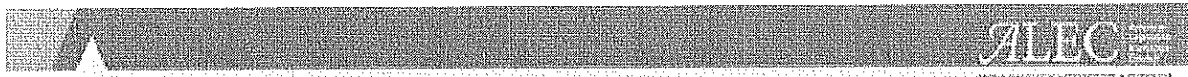
The State of Innovation - Legislators Attend the Consumer Electronics Show

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Center for Innovation and Technology - February 13, 2018

From Center Director Bartlett Cleland and 2018 ALEC Chairman, North Carolina Representative Jason Saine

The states are the laboratories of democracy as Justice Brandeis wrote in 1932. They are seen as a proving ground of sorts for public policy, a platform from which the best policies can be tested and then shared with other states. As such, states cannot afford to take the status quo for granted. As the world changes, states need to change to stay competitive and relevant, pursuing the best policies and understanding innovative growing industries, products and services.

To stay on the curve then, or maybe even ahead of the curve, is an imperative for state legislators. They must continually seek to be educated, exchanging the best ideas and cautions with other legislators while hearing from experts on the issues that the legislators are facing. The result of not continually improving a state can lead to dramatic problems or opportunities missed. A state must make sure that opportunities for its citizens are not arbitrarily limited, that the business environment created by the state is such that start-ups can begin and grow, and that companies can compete effectively.

Last month's Consumer Electronics Show, again serving as the proving ground for innovators and breakthrough technologies as it has for 50 years, highlighted all of the best in innovation in technology. Automated cars, smart speakers, next generation televisions, drones and even a wireless connected toilet seat were just some of the creations that filled the city's show floors.

But public policy, including state policy, was also center stage. With panels discussing such diverse issues as digital health, privacy and the industry's voluntary efforts in recycling, the Show is something of a one stop show-and-tell for legislators to learn more about innovation and public policy. One interesting panel featured state governors discussing successful efforts in their states where innovation is concerned.

As Michigan Governor Rick Snyder explained during the panel, Michigan serves as an example of a state that lost its way but that has regained its footing. A leader in innovation for decades, the state rested on its innovation laurels instead of continually improving. But after the state got back on the right track with its massive tax reform, regulatory reform and balancing its budget, it has taken advantage of its history with the automobile industry to become a leader in modern mobility. While the state still struggles with attracting enough of the right educated and trained people, Michigan is again attracting and growing innovation businesses.

Nevada, as Governor Brian Sandoval described, is fully 84% federal land. But instead of being hamstrung by that negative, the state looked to the positive of having all of that open space. The state has now become a leader for drone testing which has led to growth of that industry there. In addition, taking advantage of all its sun, Nevada has attracted solar arrays to provide green energy which has enabled the state to attract those industries that seek such.

7/24/2018


Gmail - The State of Innovation - Legislators Attend the Consumer Electronics Show

Combining this sort of policy input with a show floor full of cutting edge technologies is a powerful reminder of how robust the innovation economy can be when allowed to grow. The overall takeaway from the panels and the technology demonstrated during the Show was that government has to maintain an environment for innovation to flourish. In addition, government itself needs to get moving on improving, experimenting, even knowing that not every idea will work, but comforted knowing that this sort of experimentation is a role only they can fill in our nation.

Few other venues can provide this sort of industry wide, city spanning, show and tell for legislators. The Consumer Electronics Show is increasingly a peek at the very state of innovation across the states.

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News Bill Tracking Legislation

HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

HB 508

OHIO CORPS (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.)
To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to
make an appropriation.
House Finance

INTRODUCED

HB 497

PRIVATE IMAGES (Rogers, J., Manning, N.)
To prohibit the nonconsensual dissemination of
private sexual images, to require that certain

property involved in the offense be criminally forfeited, and to create certain legal rights and employment protections of a victim of the offense.

HB 498**RESISTING ARREST (Schuring, K.)**

To classify resisting arrest as an offense of violence and to increase the penalties for certain resisting arrest offenses.

HB 499**CAPITAL PROGRAM (Rogers, J., Cera, J.)**

To create the Supplemental State Capital Improvements Pilot Program funded by a temporary transfer from the Budget Stabilization Fund and to make an appropriation.

HB 500**TOWNSHIP LAWS (Carfagna, R.)**

To make various changes to township law.

HB 501**VETERINARY TITLES (LaTourette, S., Huffman, S.)**

To change professional title of "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse."

HB 502**YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.)**

With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in public schools.

HB 503**YOUTH SUICIDE (Anielski, M.)**

With regard to educator inservice training on youth suicide awareness and prevention in private schools.

HB 504**INTERIOR DESIGNERS (Pelanda, D.)**

Regarding interior designers.

HB 505

AWARENESS MONTH (Sykes, E.)
To designate May as "Maternal Mortality Awareness Month."

HB 506

DOG BREEDERS (Hill, B.)
To revise the law governing high volume dog breeders.

HB 507

TAX CREDIT (Gonzales, A.)
To allow a refundable income tax credit for parents of stillborn children.

HB 509

BEER SALES (Hambley, S., Sweeney, M.)
To create the F-11 liquor permit to authorize the sale of beer under specified circumstances at a farmers market and to authorize the Department of Agriculture to promote the use of Ohio-produced agricultural goods grown for inclusion in beer or cider through a promotional program.

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

SB 144

DISABILITIES COUNCIL (Burke, D.)
To abolish the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Commission, Consumer Advisory Committee, and Governor's Council on People with Disabilities; to establish a state rehabilitation services council known as the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council; and to restore staggered terms of office for the employee members representing firefighters on the board of trustees of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund.

HB 359**STATE FLAG (Stein, D.)**

To create a suggested ceremonial procedure for retiring an Ohio state flag.

HB 370**STATE SEAL (Perales, R.)**

To add a representation of the Wright Brothers' first piloted airplane to the Coat of Arms and Great Seal of the State of Ohio.

HB 478**WIRELESS SERVICES (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.)**

To modify the law regarding wireless service and the placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way.

REPORTED-AMENDED (See separate story)

REFERRED

Aging & Long Term Care

HB 486**EMS WORKERS (Antonio, N.)**

To specify that emergency medical services workers are public safety officers under the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System.

Civil Justice

HB 482**NUISANCE PROPERTIES (Lipps, S., Miller, A.)**

To expedite public nuisance and blight foreclosure actions and to declare an emergency.

Criminal Justice

HB 496**ASSAULT PENALTIES (Kelly, B., Perales, R.)**

To increase the penalty for assault when the victim is an employee of an Ohio transit system; to authorize Ohio transit systems to post a sign regarding abuse or assault of staff; and to increase the penalty for evading payment of the known fares of a public transportation system.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB 490

LABOR CAMPS (Stein, D.)

To exempt certain residential buildings from agricultural labor camp licensing.

Education & Career Readiness

HB 487

SCHOOL PROPERTY (Ingram, C.)

To eliminate the right of first refusal for community schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics schools in the acquisition of school district real property.

HB 491

EDUCATION LICENSE (Edwards, J.)

To require the State Board of Education to issue a substitute license to specified pupil services personnel.

Government Accountability & Oversight

HB 489

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (Dever, J.)

To provide some regulatory and tax relief to state banks and credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to

modify when a creditor can file a claim against an estate, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection.

HB 494**FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS (Antani, N.)**

To specify that a franchisor is not the employer of a franchisee or employee of a franchisee for purposes of the Minimum Fair Wage Standards Law, the Bimonthly Pay Law, the Workers' Compensation Law, the Unemployment Compensation Law, and the Income Tax Law.

HB 495**MARIJUANA PAYMENTS (Seitz, B.)**

Relating to the closed-loop payment processing system under the medical marijuana control program.

Health**HB 485****AWARENESS DAY (Antani, N.)**

To enact "Cody's Law" to designate January 30 as "Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy Awareness Day."

State & Local Government**HB 483****WEEK DESIGNATION (Patterson, J.)**

To designate the second week of October as "Ohio Covered Bridge Week."

HB 484**HEALTH DISTRICTS (Brenner, A.)**

To authorize city and general health districts to use credit cards in accordance with prescribed requirements.

HB 492**STATE PROCUREMENT (Gonzales, A.)**

To establish the women-owned business enterprise program requiring state agencies to establish women-owned business procurement goals.

HB 493**MINORITY ENTERPRISES (Gonzales, A.)**

To authorize the Director of Administrative Services to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states with respect to the certification of minority business enterprises and EDGE business enterprises.

Transportation & Public SafetyHB 481**LICENSE PLATE (Greenspan, D., Fedor, T.)**

To create the "Stop Bullying" license plate.

Ways & MeansHB 488**TAX LEVIES (Hood, R., Becker, J.)**

To modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies.

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NEWS

Akron prepares for a possible loss in court against the state (Akron Beacon Journal, 2/14/2018)

Ohio Supreme Court hears arguments in online charter school case (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Report: Fertilizer, manure top Lake Erie phosphorus sources (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Source: Pillich to leave governor's race, back Cordray (Associated Press, 2/14/2018)

Portman 'shocked' ex-aide accused of abuse (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/14/2018)

- Sole female Dem in gubernatorial race to quit (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/14/2018)**
- Connie Pillich expected to drop out of the governor's race (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)**
- Lawmakers must rewrite Ohio bill to reflect new federal tax rules (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)**
- Ohio's charter school quality crackdown claims a big-city victim - the Cincinnati school district (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)**
- Skill games to be regulated by Ohio Casino Control Commission (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)**
- Chief justice to ECOT attorney: 'How is that not absurd?' (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**
- Kasich chosen to address graduates of Kennedy School in May (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**
- New report from pro-labor group pans right-to-work proposals (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**
- Ohio wants to require those on Medicaid to get a job (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**
- Pillich to leave race for governor, back Cordray (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**
- Podcast: A discussion with gubernatorial candidate William O'Neill (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**
- Portman shocked at allegations of abuse by former aide (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**
- President Trump jokes with Sherrod Brown on DACA (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2018)**

Ohio considers raising child marriage age after DDN investigation (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)

Portman's vetting of staffer didn't turn up complaints of wife abuse (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)

Vicious dogs: Ohio moves to change laws on dog owners (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2018)

ECOT asks high court to restore its funding (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

Toledo's only abortion clinic now in time race to get transfer agreement signed (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

EDITORIALS

Unconscionable failure by Ohio Justices O'Donnell, DeWine to recuse in ECOT case after taking thousands in campaign dollars: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2018)

Great Lakes once again in budget crosshairs (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2018)

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Criminal Justice

Facebook Live on *Mens Rea* Reform with Task Force Director Ronnie Lampard

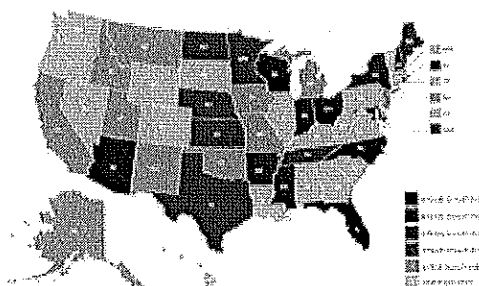
Ronald J. Lampard | Criminal Justice



ALEC will host a Facebook Live event on **Friday, February 16 at 1:00 PM** with Criminal Justice Director Ronnie Lampard to discuss the **new State Factor publication on mens rea reform**, as well as discussing how states can benefit from smart criminal justice policy. Tune in to the ALEC Facebook page to hear from our policy expert and ask your questions.

[Go to Facebook](#)

Tax Cut Roundup

Center for State Fiscal Reform Holds Conference Call on *Tax Cut Roundup*
FIGURE 1: STATE REVENUE TAX CUTS DURING THE 2014-2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION


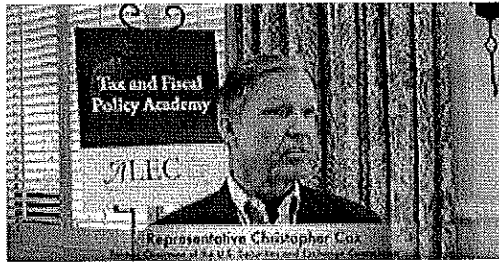
The ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform will hold a conference call on **Friday, February 16 at 11:00 AM** to discuss the new *Tax Cut Roundup*. To RSVP for the call, fill out the form linked below.

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Talking About Tax

California Congressman Chris Cox Covers the Basics of Tax Policy

ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform



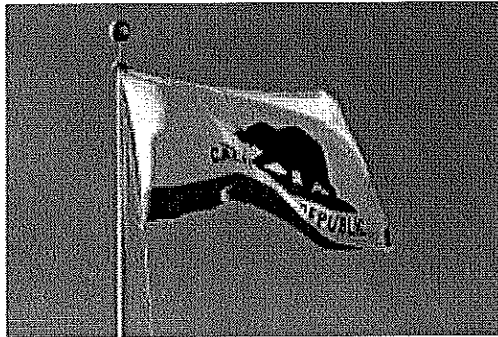
Taxation without representation could again be the rule of the land. The U.S. Supreme Court is considering a case to remove physical presence as a requirement for the government authority to tax a person. Legislators need to make sure they are familiar with the basics on the issue. Watch this 2015 video from former Congressman Chris Cox and stay tuned for upcoming conference calls and discussions as the situation develops.

[View Video](#)

State of the State Analysis

A Tale of Two States: Center for State Fiscal Reform Analyzes California and Arizona

Joel Griffith | Center for State Fiscal Reform



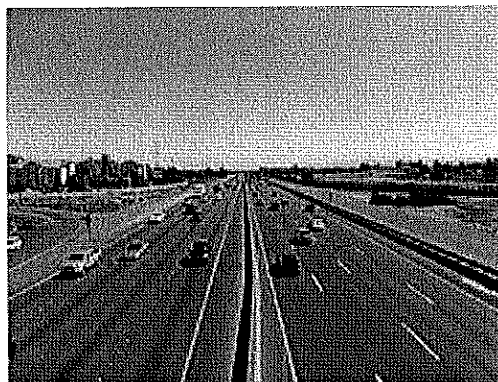
The Center for State Fiscal Reform continues its in-depth analyses of State of the State addresses from across the nation. The center is focused on highlighting both strong and weak tax policies outlined in the speeches, and their effects on the specific states. New the week are analyses of two states with vastly different agendas: **California** and **Arizona**. To view all the responses so far, follow the link below.

[View Articles](#)

Infrastructure Focus

Trump Infrastructure: Plan is Out, Details to Come

Robert Ordway | Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development



Earlier this week, the Trump Administration released its \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan. From an accountability perspective, the White House believes that for too long, locals have delayed projects while waiting for federal grants to come through, creating a strong disincentive to develop their own revenue generating sources. Success here will ensure investment in infrastructure happens as needed instead of after a major accident or infrastructure failure occurs.

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Intellectual Property

Create – The Sixth Edition of the U.S. Chamber's *International IP Index*

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations



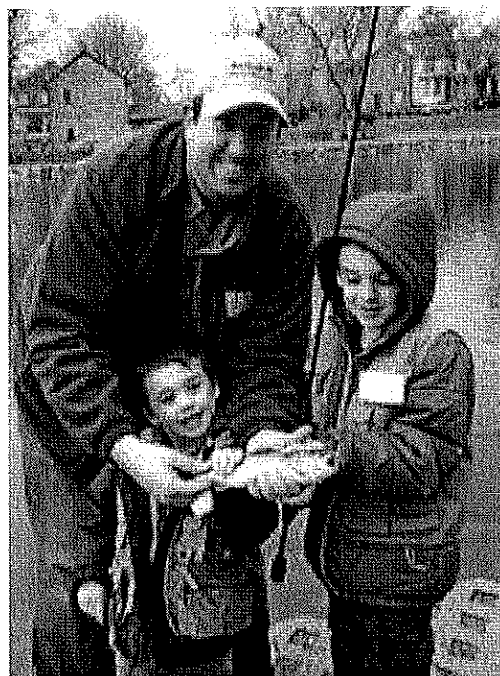
The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) just released the sixth edition of the *International IP Index*. Aptly titled *Create*, five new countries (Costa Rica, Ireland, Jordan, Morocco and the Netherlands) have been added to those profiled for a total of 50.

[Read Article](#)

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Legislator of the Week and Year

Representative Seth Grove | PA-196



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Pennsylvania State Representative Seth Grove**. Representative Grove is not only this week's Legislator of the Week, he was also awarded the **2017 Legislator of the Year** at the *ALEC States and Nation Policy Summit* in Nashville, TN due in no small part to being a champion for fiscal restraint in Pennsylvania.

Representative Grove works with his fellow legislators on the Pennsylvania Taxpayers' Caucus and at ALEC to bring sound fiscal policy, as well as "big ideas and big changes" to his state.

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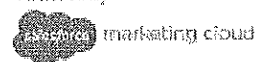
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Gmail - Rob's Rundown: Week of February 12 - 16, 2018



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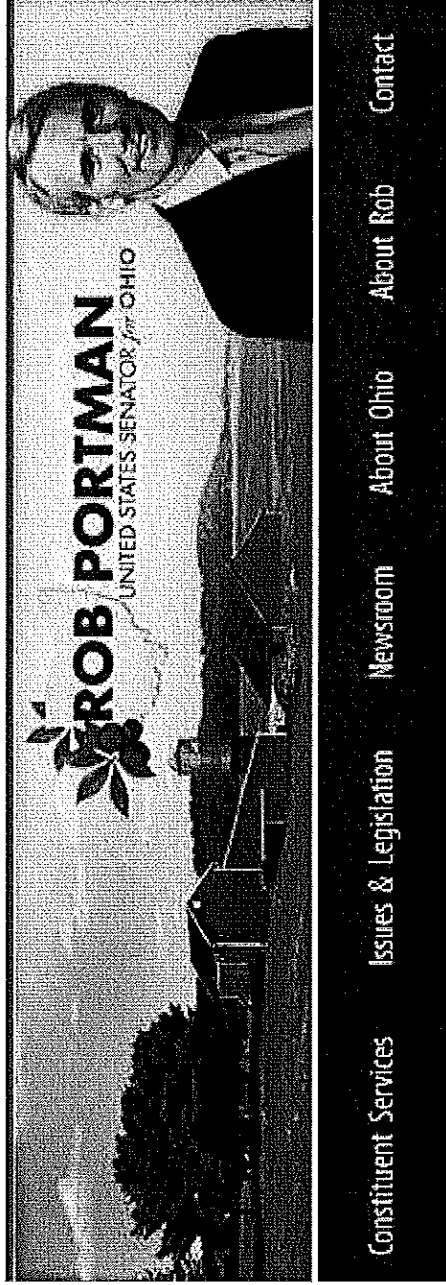
Rob's Rundown: Week of February 12 - 16, 2018

1 message

Senator Rob Portman <no_reply@portman.senate.gov>

To: latoursm@gmail.com

Mon, Feb 19, 2018 at 12:25 AM



This week, Senator Portman joined all Americans in mourning the loss of 17 students and teachers in the horrific shooting in Florida. Portman also joined the Westerville community and police officers around the country in remembering fallen Officers Eric Joering and Anthony Morelli.

Also this week, Portman continued his focus on delivering on the promises of tax reform, working to combat the opioid epidemic, helping secure resources for our men and women in uniform serving in Ohio, and more. For a more detailed look at Senator Portman's week, please see the following:

Monday, February 12

Portman Statement on President Trump's Infrastructure Plan

Portman issued the following statement on President Trump's Infrastructure plan:

"The president's infrastructure proposal is a good starting point for discussion and I'm hopeful both parties will work together on this issue. By rebuilding our aging infrastructure and improving job training programs targeted toward in-demand

infrastructure-related jobs, we have a great opportunity to further strengthen our economy. I am also glad to see the administration is making infrastructure permitting reform a priority. I've led efforts in the Senate to streamline our permitting process, working to enact FAST-41 so we can rebuild our infrastructure more quickly. With a permitting process that makes sense and operates efficiently, we can put more people back to work, improve our infrastructure, and better protect the environment. I look forward to working with the administration and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop legislation on these issues in the coming months."

NOTE: Portman has led efforts in Washington to streamline the federal permitting process. Recently, the Trump administration has begun to use the tools authorized by Portman's *Federal Permitting Improvement Act*, which helps streamline the federal infrastructure permitting process to boost our economy and create jobs. The bill was enacted into law last Congress as Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41). Two weeks ago, the Trump Administration and the state of Louisiana entered into the first memorandum of understanding between the federal government and a state to facilitate the infrastructure permitting process for a project covered by this new law. FAST-41 requires that one agency serve as the lead agency for covered projects; all agencies involved in covered projects develop a coordinated permitting timeline at the start of the process; and agencies post the permitting timeline and updates to it on an online Permitting Dashboard throughout the permitting process for each covered project. Last September, Portman chaired a Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI) hearing on how permitting reform, like FAST-41, will create good-paying jobs across the country.

Portman Announces President's Budget Increases Funding to Upgrade Abrams Tanks

On Monday, Portman announced that President Trump's FY 2019 Budget proposes \$1.53 billion in funding to upgrade 135, or 1.5 brigades worth, of Abrams tanks — increasing the rate of production of the newest upgraded Abrams tanks in Lima in order to ensure that our forward deployed tanks have the most cutting-edge capabilities. The funding builds on last years' National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which authorized upgrading one brigade of Abrams tanks. Portman released the following statement:

"The Pentagon's latest National Defense Strategy highlights the harsh realities of the threats we face in the world and the steps we need to take to confront them. We must invest in our men and women in uniform and give them the tools they need now and in the future to do their jobs. The president's budget for 2019 proposes an important down payment on those needed investments."

"The newest Abrams tank is one of those vital investments. Countries around the world, including potential adversaries, continue to invest in armor and anti-armor systems that challenge the supremacy of our armor brigades. The newest Abrams tank, designed to combat these advancements, has started coming off the line at the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center (JSMC) in Lima. Not long ago, the plant was producing one tank a month for our U.S. soldiers. With this proposal, we could be getting more than 10 upgraded tanks a month out to our soldiers. As the Army plans to

continue to grow their armor formations, this increased production will be enormously important. It's also tremendously important for Lima. I am pleased that the president's budget supports the skilled JSMC employees. I believe it will make a difference for our military and allow JSMC to continue assisting our men and women in uniform."

NOTE: Senator Portman has been instrumental in securing funding for Lima and its workers. In 2011, when the Obama Administration proposed a costly plan to shut down the Abrams tank production line at the JSMC, Portman and other Ohio delegation members successfully fought to keep the plant open. Since then, Portman has worked hard to push for more foreign military sales to U.S. allies, protect Lima workers during downturns, and secure funding for the Abrams Tanks and Stryker vehicles. Last August, he visited the JSMC and hosted an employee town hall as part of his Ohio Defense Tour. For more information on Portman's work to protect Lima's workers and keep our national security strong, see this fact sheet.

Portman Announces President's Budget Increases Funding for Wright Patterson Air Force Base's National Air and Space Intelligence Center

Portman also announced that President Trump's FY 2019 Budget proposes \$116 million in funding to upgrade the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) located at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. NASIC's main campus facilities are overcrowded and require modernization to meet today's missions. With significant total force growth that has outpaced their facility growth, NASIC has been forced to utilize antiquated World War II era facilities on base and temporary structures. This investment in NASIC infrastructure will provide the command with much needed secure spaces that meet the demands of the growing workforce and the associated information technology requirements of modern facilities. Portman released the following statement:

"Last year, I had the opportunity to visit Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and meet with the men and women serving in the National Air and Space Intelligence Center. I saw firsthand NASIC's most recent military construction project for their Foreign Military Exploitation mission, as well as some of the groundbreaking analysis they are doing to keep our skies and our country safe from foreign threats. However, I also saw many of our intelligence professionals performing highly technical, 21st century work in World War II era facilities. The Pentagon's latest National Defense Strategy highlights the harsh realities of the threats we face in the world and the steps we need to take to confront them. NASIC will continue to play an important role providing the nation and our leaders with an understanding of foreign threats to U.S. air and space operations. I am pleased the president's budget for 2019 supports the mission of NASIC and Wright-Patt by providing the funding they need to upgrade their facilities and continue their important work. I believe it will make a difference to our Airmen and Air Force Civilians at Wright-Patt and to our troops around the world who rely on NASIC for accurate and timely intelligence."

NOTE: Last year, Senator Portman's amendments to support jobs and the important research mission at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's Air Force Research Lab were signed into law as

part of the NDAA. This legislation is critical to our national security and to maintaining our military's technological edge. In May of last year, the Senate passed Portman and Senator Joe Donnelly's (D-IN) resolution honoring the cutting-edge work of Department of Defense (DoD) laboratories such as the Air Force Research Lab at Wright-Patt. Portman visited NASIC and other units at Wright-Patt in March and August of last year.

Portman Announces President's Budget Provides Funding for Camp Ravenna

Lastly, Portman announced that President Trump's FY 2019 Budget proposes \$7.4 million to expand training capabilities at the Ohio National Guard's Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center with a new automated machine gun range. Portman released the following statement:

"Camp Ravenna's strategic location in Northeast Ohio, optimal size, access to robust regional infrastructure, and professional Ohio National Guard staff make the base one of the premier Army training centers in the region. A new automated multi-purpose machine gun range will give the Ohio Army National Guard an important, new training capability. It will provide our soldiers a realistic environment to meet their training requirements that currently is not available in the state. As our men and women in uniform confront the harsh realities we face in the world and take the steps they need to confront them, it is important they have the training, equipment, and facilities they need. I am pleased this funding has been included in the president's budget to help our National Guards units training at Camp Ravenna."

NOTE: Senator Portman is a strong supporter and advocate for Ohio's military facilities and research institutions. These assets provide significant jobs and economic impact across Ohio and directly influence the national security of our country. Forty-three of Ohio's 88 counties are impacted by these facilities. Ohio Defense spending accounted for more than 66,000 direct jobs, more than \$4 billion in salaries, and more than a \$14 billion economic impact. Portman was awarded the Ohio National Guard Association's Major General Charles Dick Award for Legislative Excellence for his years of strong support for the Ohio National Guard.

Portman Opposes White House FY 19 Budget Request Cut to Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Portman issued the following statement on the release of the White House budget proposal for FY 2019 that would cut funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) from \$300 million to \$30 million in the upcoming year:

"I've successfully helped lead the effort to restore full funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative after both Republican and Democratic administrations have proposed cuts to the program, and I will do so again this year. The Great Lakes are an invaluable resource to Ohio, and this initiative has been a successful public-private partnership that helps protect both our environment and our economy. As the world's largest freshwater body, the Great Lakes provide drinking water for 40 million people, contribute \$10 billion in tourism each year, and support hundreds of thousands of jobs across the region. I have long championed this program, and I will continue to do

everything I can to protect and preserve Lake Erie and all the Great Lakes, including preserving this critical program and its funding."

Wednesday, February 14

At Senate Finance Committee Hearing, Portman Discusses Impact of Tax Reform with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin

During a Senate Finance Committee hearing on Wednesday, Portman discussed how the *Tax Cuts & Jobs Act* is already delivering results for American workers with Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin. Mnuchin told Portman that, in the coming weeks, they expect 90 percent of Americans will see more money in their paychecks due to withholding changes. Portman also discussed how tax reform is delivering on the two main goals Portman and others had when crafting the legislation: to encourage economic growth and investment, and to put more money in the pockets of American families. The proof, said Portman, is in what's happening at Ohio companies like the Sheffer Corporation in Cincinnati and at Ohio's major-private sector companies that are announcing more investment in plants and equipment, wage increases, bonuses, higher 401(k) matches, and more.

Transcript of the questioning can be found [here](#). A video can be found [here](#).



Thursday, February 15

Portman Joins Senator Brown & Bipartisan Senators to Introduce Bill to Combat Drug-Facilitated Human Trafficking

On Thursday, Senators Portman, Sherrod Brown (D-OH), John Cornyn (R-TX), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Bill Nelson (D-FL), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and Thom Tillis (R-NC) joined U.S. Reps. John Ratcliffe (R-TX-4) and Kathleen Rice (D-NY-4) to introduce bipartisan, bicameral legislation to crack down on drug-facilitated human trafficking. The *Protecting*

Rights of Those Exploited by Coercive Trafficking (PROTECT) Act would specifically address the use of drugs to facilitate human trafficking and protect vulnerable victims of trafficking.

Human traffickers often introduce or exploit drug addiction to control or force victims into prostitution or forced labor. This compounds the trauma experienced by human trafficking victims and undermines recovery efforts for individuals suffering from addiction.

"Too often, drugs are used to coerce victims of human trafficking," said Sen. Portman. "This bipartisan legislation would better equip law enforcement to bring human traffickers to justice."

For more information, go here.

At Senate Finance Committee Hearing, Portman Presses HHS Secretary to Fund CARA's Evidence-Based Opioid Programs

During a Senate Finance Committee hearing Thursday, Portman discussed the importance of providing additional funding from the federal level to combat the opioid crisis that is devastating Ohio and our country. Last week, Portman helped secure an additional \$6 billion in funding over two years to combat the opioid crisis. Portman also discussed the importance of the *Drug Free Communities Act*, legislation he authored during his time in the House of Representatives that has been proven to work, urging Secretary Azar to ensure the program, as well as his bipartisan *Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act*(CARA), is fully funded.

Transcript of the questioning can be found here. A video can be found here.



Thune, Portman, and Moran Introduce Legislation to Enhance Border Security and Codify DACA Protections

Senators Portman, John Thune (R-SD), and Jerry Moran (R-KS) on Thursday filed an amendment to the underlying immigration reform vehicle that would establish a \$25 billion trust fund to enhance U.S. border security. The amendment would also codify protections for those individuals who, at no fault of their own, entered the United States illegally as children and are currently covered by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

"A sensible and fair solution is to codify the protections for the DACA population while also putting in place stronger border security measures consistent with the president's proposal," said Portman. "Those in the DACA program are here through no fault of their own, and for many this is the only country they know. This proposal represents a permanent legislative solution that will allow those in the DACA program to stay here and continue to contribute to our society while strengthening our border security to protect all Americans. Despite the failure to make progress today, I believe we still have a responsibility to resolve this issue, and this proposal is a fair and responsible solution that could get the necessary votes to become law."

Portman Statement on Special Counsel Indictments

Portman issued the following statement after a federal grand jury indicted 13 Russian nationals and three Russian entities for interfering in the 2016 presidential election:

"This announcement is a positive step towards holding Russia accountable for its efforts to undermine our democracy. I've long said that the issue of Russian meddling in our presidential election must be investigated fully, and that the Special Counsel should follow the facts wherever they lead because the American people deserve to see all the facts. We must not forget that this is one small part of the larger process of understanding the extent of ongoing Russian disinformation and influence operations against the United States and our allies. That's why I have continued to help lead the effort in Congress to enact bipartisan legislation to better counter foreign propaganda and disinformation from our enemies."

On Social Media:



Rob Portman @senrobportman · 14m

Fitting tribute to two fallen heroes, Westerville Officers Eric Joering and Anthony Morelli. Today we mourn their loss, remember their courage, and thank them for wearing the badge to keep us safe.



Honoring fallen Westerville Officers Eric Joering and Anthony Morelli

Today, Central Ohio will lay to rest fallen Westerville Officers Eric Joering and Anthony Morelli.

nbc41.com



Rob Portman @senrobportman · Feb 14

When American workers look at their paychecks in coming weeks & months, they will notice that less of their hard-earned money is going to Uncle Sam. That means more money for them to spend as they please.





Rob Portman · @senrobportman · Feb 13

I'm proud to stand with @FCPOfOhio & all of our #Ohio officers that wear the badge. They put their lives on the line for us every day, & they deserve to know we are behind them.



Rob Portman · @senrobportman · Feb 9

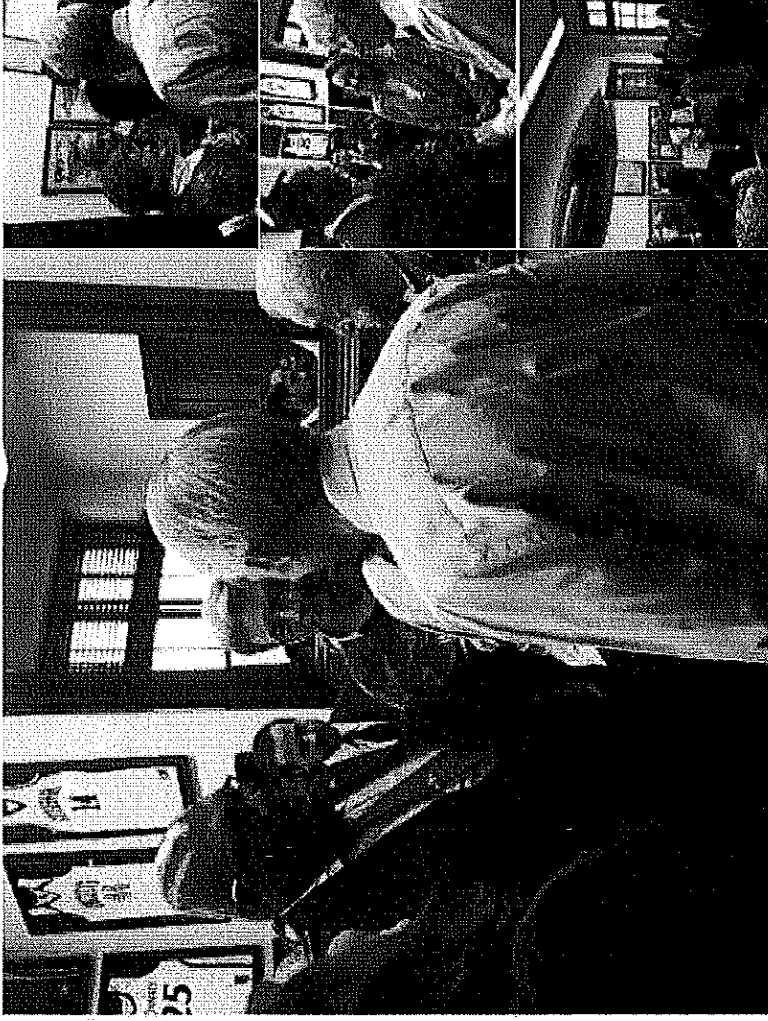
The #Olympics are upon us, and the @SenateGOP is ready. Go #TeamUSA!





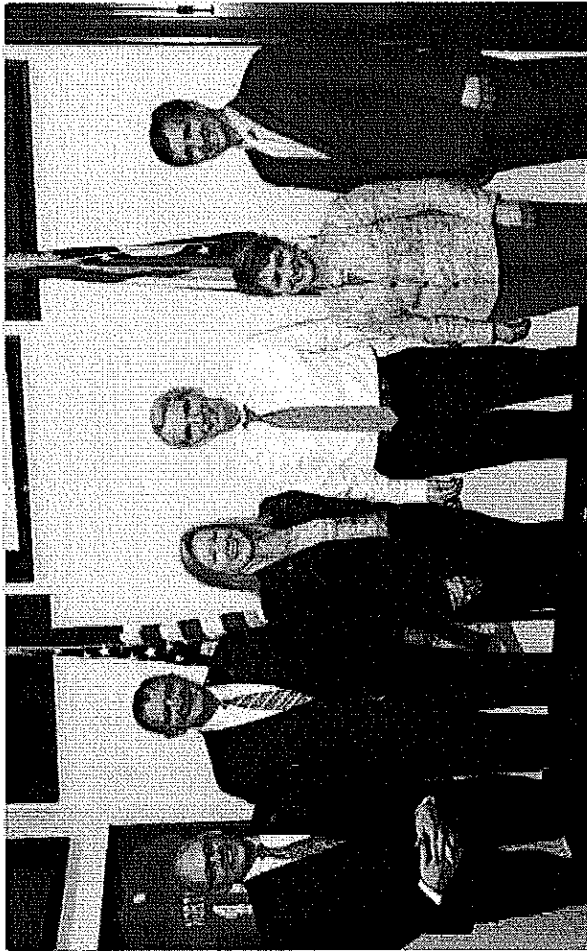
Rob Portman @senrobportman · Feb 14

Between @XavierMBB, @GoBearsMBB, @OhioStateHoops, & of course the new look @cavs, a lot of excited basketball fans at this morning's constituent coffee! Thanks to all who came in to visit. #Ohio





Rob Portman @senrobportman · Feb 13
 Got to meet w/ #Ohio MAC University Presidents today from @bgsu, @KentState, @miamiuniversity, @uakron, & @UToledo! Discussed ways we can work together to help our OH students prepare for good #jobs. #MAAction



Rob Portman @senrobportman · Feb 10
 The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (#SESTA) will amend a 1996 law that courts have told Congress to change so we can hold accountable criminals that sell women & children online. Congress must act.



1:41 26.5K views



Closing the loophole that lets drug traffickers exploit the Postal Service

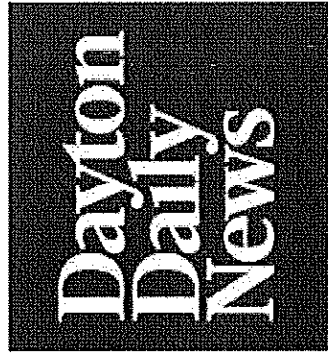
In 2016, more Americans died from drug overdoses than were killed during the entire Vietnam War. A big part of this problem is opioids, which were involved in about two-thirds of all overdose deaths. These drugs take lives regardless of age, area code, class, or color.

This national epidemic has unfolded in three waves. First, prescription drug use exploded about 15 to 20 years ago; second, heroin deaths spiked as people moved to the less expensive, more accessible alternative. And then today, synthetic forms of heroin are overtaking the market — and the results have been deadly.

In my home state of Ohio, fentanyl, a synthetic drug 50 times stronger than heroin, and its variations were responsible for nearly 60 percent of all overdose deaths in 2016. Fentanyl's deadly potency, cheap cost, and widespread availability have made it the new scourge of the opioid epidemic. Unbelievably, fentanyl is primarily manufactured in Chinese labs and shipped into America through our own U.S. Postal Service.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair along with ranking member Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., recently held a hearing on this issue. It came on the heels of our yearlong bipartisan investigation into how drug traffickers in China exploit vulnerabilities in our international mail system to ship deadly synthetic drugs into our communities...

("Closing the loophole that lets drug traffickers exploit the Postal Service," Rob Portman. Washington Examiner. February 16, 2018)



Senators press Trump to protect U.S. steel production

Ohio's two senators urged President Trump Tuesday to protect thousands of jobs in Ohio — including about 2,700 at AK Steel Corp. in Butler County — by imposing tariffs on steel

imports.

U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D) and Rob Portman (R) said President Trump should confront what they say is Chinese steel "overcapacity," or the importing of artificially high levels of steel into the United States.

Brown and Portman were among several lawmakers who met with the President in the White House to discuss the global steel trade...

"I'm concerned about electrical steel leaving our country altogether," Portman said in a conference call.

Such steel is necessary for crucial electrical grid components, and Portman called it a "national security issue."

("Senators press Trump to protect U.S. steel production," Thomas Gnau. Dayton Daily News. February 14, 2018)



Senators Brown, Portman give insight on President's infrastructure plan

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) Monday urged President Donald Trump to work with Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to address the nation's infrastructure needs, rather than passing the cost on to drivers, cities, and communities through tax hikes and tolls.

The President's long-awaited infrastructure proposal relies on "leveraging" dollars that states and local communities do not have without raising taxes significantly, and would require tolling to attract private investment. ...

Portman has led efforts in Washington to streamline the federal permitting process.

Recently, the Trump administration has begun to use the tools authorized by Portman's Federal Permitting Improvement Act, which helps streamline the federal infrastructure permitting process to boost our economy and create jobs.

("Senators Brown, Portman give insight on President's infrastructure plan," Lauren Stebelton. Youngstown WFMJ. February 13, 2018)

###

7/23/2018

Gmail - Rob's Rundown: Week of February 12 - 16, 2018

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

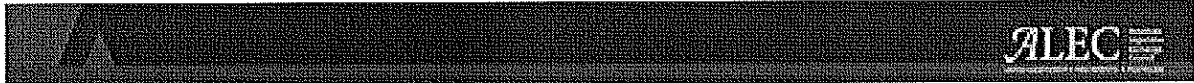
STFS 65 Day Notice

1 message

Brooklyn Roberts <broberts@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 3:43 PM

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).

**Health and Human Services Task Force
65-Day Notice**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being a member of the Task Force on Health and Human Services! I am writing to inform you of some upcoming deadlines for the ALEC Spring Task Force Summit in Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 27, 2018.

I hope everyone's year is off to a great start. There are so many exciting things going on in the health policy arena right now, and a lot of opportunities for limited government, free market-based reforms. Our task force will start the year discussing policies in both the health and human services areas, and how our task force can lead in addressing the high cost of healthcare.

Below are some important dates related to our meeting:

- **March 13, 2018** – 45-Day Policy Submission Deadline. If you would like to introduce new model policy please send me the draft language by that deadline.
- **March 28, 2018** – 30-Day Notice Published. This will contain a draft of the Task Force Meeting Agendas and model policies scheduled for consideration and review at the Task Force Meeting.
- **April 6, 2018** – Early Bird Registration and Housing Deadline
- **April 27, 2018** – Task Force Meeting

To vote on these model policies and engage in the important policy discussions, register for the ALEC Spring Task Force Summit [here](#)!

Feel free to reach out to me for any questions, and I look forward to seeing you all in Grand Rapids!

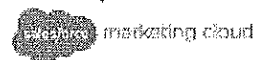
Sincerely,

Brooklyn Roberts
HHS Task Force Director

This email was sent to: latoursm@gmail.com

This email was sent by: American Legislative Exchange Council
2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22202 United States

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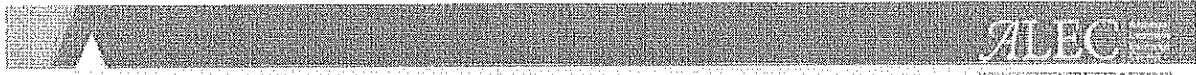
Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Center for State Fiscal Reform Updates 2/20/2018

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <tmclaughlin@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Tue, Feb 20, 2018 at 12:07 PM

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Center for State Fiscal Reform - February 20, 2018



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***The Australian*: High-Tax Refugees Flock to Cheaper Republican States**

Cameron Stewart | *The Australian*

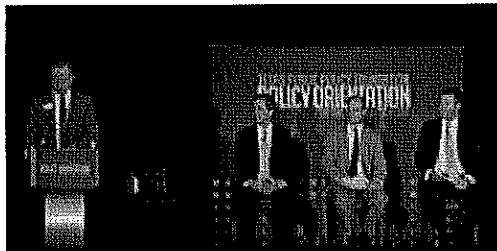
The Australian covered the migration of people from high tax to low tax states. ALEC Chief Economist and Center for State Fiscal Reform VP Jonathan Williams and Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force Director Joel Griffith were significant contributors to the article. See how ALEC tax experts reach an international audience.

[Read Article](#)

Hear From the Experts

Pulling The Reins: Slowing Government Growth With A Conservative Spending Limit

Texas Public Policy Foundation



ALEC Chief Economist and VP of the Center for State Fiscal Reform Jonathan Williams joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation for a panel discussion on slowing government growth and spending.

[Watch Video](#)

Expert Opinion

People Flocking to Low-Tax States Could Swing Future Elections

Jonathan Williams | Center for State Fiscal Reform | *The Hill*



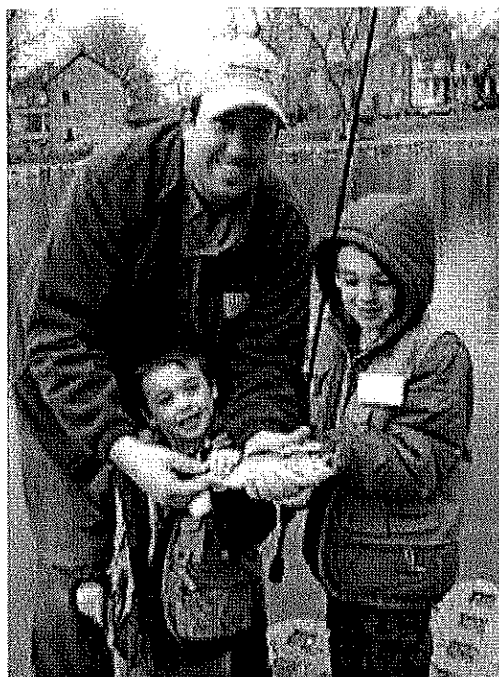
Americans are voting with their wallets in response to policy decisions and state competitiveness. The new census migration data reveals that millions of people are moving their families, businesses and incomes to states that are more economically competitive.

[Read Article](#)

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Legislator of the Week and Year

Representative Seth Grove | PA-196



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Pennsylvania State Representative Seth Grove**. Representative Grove is not only this week's Legislator of the Week, he was also awarded the **2017 Legislator of the Year** at the *ALEC States and Nation Policy Summit* in Nashville, TN due in no small part to being a champion for fiscal restraint in Pennsylvania.

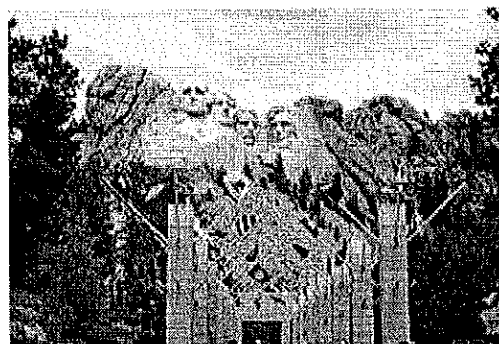
Representative Grove works with his fellow legislators on the Pennsylvania Taxpayers' Caucus and at ALEC to bring sound fiscal policy, as well as "big ideas and big changes" to his state.

[Read Article](#)

Legislator Voices

South Dakotans Are Losing Economic Freedoms

SD Representative Taffy Howard | *The Argus Leader*



South Dakota's economy is reacting to the growth in government and in a negative way. Its citizens are the best economic engine this state will ever have. Its citizens will grow this state more than any government program ever will and it is time government recognizes that and allow our citizens the economic freedom to drive this state forward.

[Read Article](#)

State of the State Response: MI

A Comeback Story

Christine Smith | Center for State Fiscal Reform



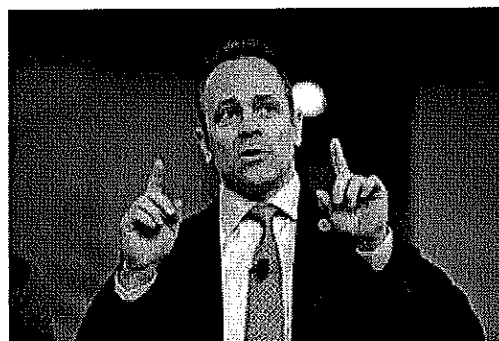
Fortune is changing in the state of Michigan following decades of extreme economic adversity, from the rapid downturn in the auto industry to the downward population spiral in Detroit. Governor Rick Snyder delivered his last State of the State address in an optimistic tone, emphasizing how several substantive policy changes embraced by the governor have sparked dramatic economic improvement in the state.

[Read Article](#)

State of the State Response: KY

Governor Bevin Commits to Tax and Pension Reform

Christine Smith | Center for State Fiscal Reform



The governor stressed the need to "get the state's financial house in order" by thinking strategically about what government dollars should and should not be funding with a laser- sharp focus on "PIE" (protection, infrastructure, and education). Pension reform was another major component of Bevin's address, declaring that "this year they will be funded in their entirety for the first time in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

[Read Article](#)

Online Sales Tax

Don't Let States Put Their Sales Tax on Delaware Businesses

Jonathan Williams | Center for State Fiscal Reform | *Delaware Online*



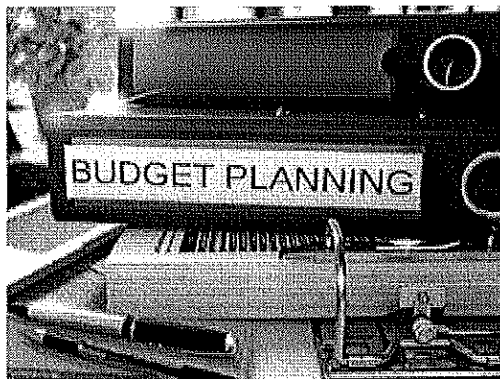
In an effort to boost revenue, some state policymakers in other states are looking to reach outside of their borders and force Delaware-based businesses to serve as their tax collectors. This would apply to Delaware businesses that simply sell products to out-of-state residents over the Internet. This should be concerning news to every resident and business owner – especially in no-sales-tax states.

[Read Article](#)

The Williams Report

Williams Report February Update

Bob Williams | Senior Scholar, Center for State Fiscal Reform



ALEC tax scholar Bob Williams highlights important articles dealing with the budget and pensions in the states, covering January and the early part of February.

[Read Article](#)



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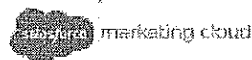


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